



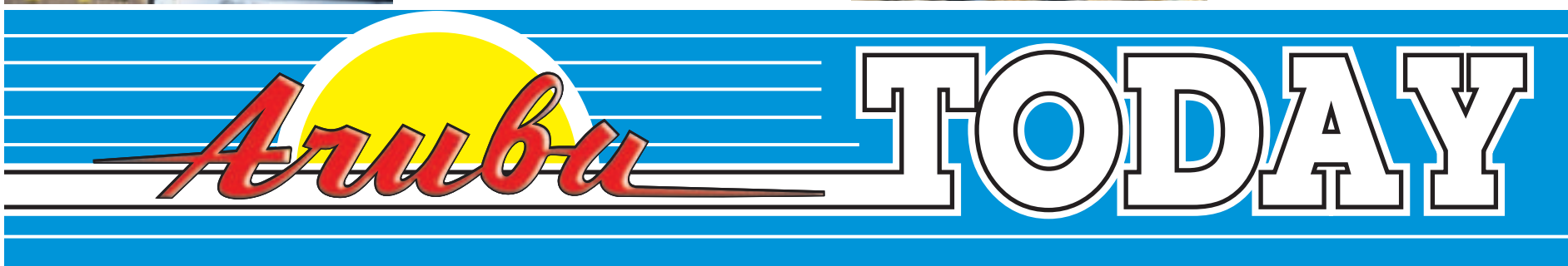
US HOME MARKET SEES FEWER BUYERS AND WEAK SELLERS

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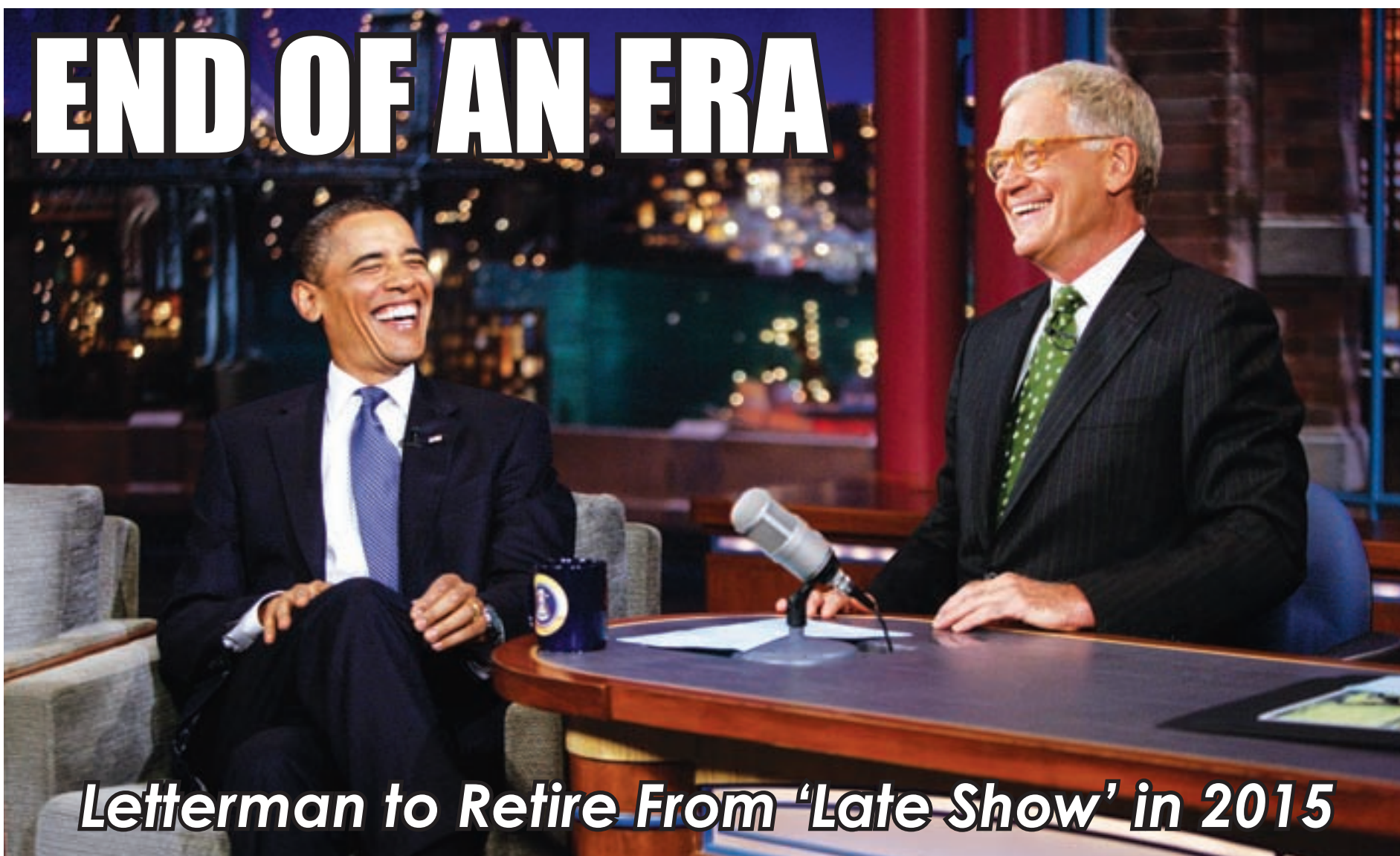


STUDENT PROTEST ENDS IN VIOLENCE IN VENEZUELA

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On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Friday, April 4, 2014



David Letterman jokes with President Barack Obama on "The Late Show with David Letterman," in New York. On April 3, 2014, Letterman announced his intent to retire from his CBS show in 2015.

(Doug Mills/The New York Times)

BILL CARTER

© 2014 New York Times

NEW YORK - David Letterman, the longest-running host in the history of late-night television, announced that he will retire from his CBS show next year, the latest shakeup in a rapidly changing late night talk-show lineup.

Letterman, who has always used his show as the outlet for discussing developments in both his life and his career, revealed his decision during a taping Thursday afternoon in Manhat-

tan. Letterman, 66, said he had informed the CBS president, Leslie Moonves, of his intention to step down from "The Late Show" at the end of his current contract, which expires in 2015. Letterman is considered by many to be the most original voice in the late-night format, and Moonves has been steadfast in his assurances in recent years that he would never ask Letterman to retire, saying at one point, "You don't do that to a television legend."

His departure will mean

that the coveted 11:35 p.m. time slot will have a largely new lineup of hosts. In January 2013, Jimmy Kimmel moved his ABC show from midnight to 11:35, and in February Jimmy Fallon replaced Jay Leno on NBC's "Tonight" show. In his statement on the air, Letterman said he and Moonves had had previous conversations about how his retirement would be handled. "We agreed that we would work together on this circumstance and the timing of this circumstance,"

Letterman said. "And I phoned him just before the program, and I said, 'Leslie, it's been great, you've been great, and the network has been great, but I'm retiring.'" Letterman also thanked his staff and the viewers for supporting him during his run. He began "Late Show" on CBS in 1993 after an 11-year run on NBC's "Late Night" program, which he created. That total run of 33 years in late night (counting 2015) eclipses the 30-year tenure of Johnny Carson on NBC's

"Tonight" show. In a statement Moonves said, "For 21 years, David Letterman has graced our network's air in late night with wit, gravitas and brilliance unique in the history of our medium." The specific end date for Letterman has not yet been set. His contract has about 18 months left. In his commentary Letterman said, "We don't have the timetable for this precisely down - I think it will be at least a year or so, but sometime in the not too distant future, 2015 for the love of God." □

Missing Malaysia Jet: Hunt for jet's black boxes is a race against time

KIRK SEMPLE

© 2014 New York Times

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia - With only days left before the batteries on the data and voice recorders of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 were expected to die, the multinational search force resumed its hunt at day-break Thursday with eight aircraft and nine ships sweeping a patch of the Indian Ocean about 1,050 miles west of Perth, Australia, and a British nuclear submarine preparing to join the hunt.

In the 3 1/2 weeks since the plane disappeared, the search has turned up no evidence of the Boeing 777-200. The authorities want to locate the plane's recorders - or black boxes - hoping they might reveal the reason why the airliner suddenly veered from its scheduled flight path between Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and Beijing early March 8 and instead flew south over the Indian Ocean where, officials believe, it crashed.

The black boxes emit pings that help searchers locate them, but those signals are expected to end next week when the batteries die. While the retrieval of

debris might help locate wreckage, experts say any floating items could have drifted hundreds of miles from the plane's point of impact, diminishing their usefulness in the search.

If no debris is found, officials and experts warn, the plane may not be found for years, if ever. Investiga-

debris was recovered within days.

On Thursday, one of the search planes will drop buoys to track ocean currents and their possible effect on debris.

After a couple of days of rough weather and high seas, the forecast for Thursday was better, with vis-

A British submarine, the HMS Tireless, was scheduled to join the hunt, although it was unclear when its mission would begin. It is outfitted with listening equipment that can help track the pings of the black boxes.

Prime Minister Najib Razak of Malaysia was in Western



Able Seaman Marine Technician Matthew Oxley looks through binoculars for debris from the missing Malaysian Airlines Flight MH730 aboard the HMAS Success in the Indian Ocean.
(Australian Defence Force via The New York Times)

tors took nearly two years to find the black boxes of Air France Flight 447 after it crashed into the Atlantic Ocean in 2009, even though it was traveling along a known path and

ibility of about 12 miles, although some isolated showers were anticipated in the southern area of the search zone, said the Australian authorities coordinating the effort.

Australia on Thursday, the second day of a two-day visit to meet with his Australian counterpart, Prime Minister Tony Abbott, and view operations at Pearce Air Force Base. □

Syrian refugees in Lebanon now exceed 1 million

BEN HUBBARD

© 2014 New York Times

BEIRUT - The number of registered Syrian war refugees who have flooded into Lebanon exceeded 1 million Thursday,

the United Nations said, describing it as a devastating milestone in a humanitarian crisis that has overwhelmed this small country and severely taxed the ability of the government and aid organizations.

Lebanon now has the highest concentration of refugees as a percentage of population in the world, with about one Syrian for every three Lebanese. And new refugees keep coming as the civil war, which by some estimates has left more than 150,000 people

dead, grinds into its fourth year.

Each day, the United Nations registers 2,500 refugees in Lebanon, equivalent to more than one person per minute.

"The influx of a million refugees would be massive in any country. For Lebanon, a small nation beset by internal difficulties, the impact is staggering," António Guterres, U.N. high commissioner for refugees, said in announcing the new number in a joint statement with Lebanon's minister of social affairs, Rachid Derbas.

Government and U.N. officials have said they believe that the actual number of Syrians in Lebanon because of the conflict

is much higher, because many do not register their presence.

This influx has overwhelmed public services, damaged the economy and raised fears that the same sectarian and political splits fueling the war in Syria could lead to greater violence here.

Already, gunfights between neighborhoods that support opposite sides in the war are routine in the northern city of Tripoli, and a series of car bombs believed to be linked to the Syria conflict have killed dozens of civilians.

Unlike some of Syria's other neighbors, Lebanon has not built camps for refugees, leaving them to search for accommodations in host

communities, often in unfinished buildings, storerooms or animal sheds.

This has created tensions with the Lebanese, who often see the Syrians as a drain on resources.

Half of the refugees in Lebanon are younger than 18, and only a quarter of the 400,000 school-age refugee children are in school. Reflecting the desperation of many refugees, a Syrian mother of four who fled Syria two years ago set herself on fire after her aid was cut, according to a U.N. official cited by Reuters. And a video that circulated online Thursday showed a Syrian man committing suicide by leaping from the roof of an apartment building after losing his job. □

Turkey lifts Twitter ban

CEYLAN YEGINSU

© 2014 New York Times

ISTANBUL - The Turkish government unblocked Twitter on Thursday, a day after the country's highest court ruled that the two-week ban on the social media site violated freedom of expression.

Twitter had been blocked in Turkey since March 20, after Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan vowed to "eradicate" the site following the circulation of leaked recordings that implicated him and members of his inner circle in sweeping corruption allegations before local elections, which were held Sunday and resulted in a resounding victory for Erdogan's Islamist-rooted party.

The ruling by the Constitutional Court was handed down Wednesday, but the government did not move to lift the ban on Twitter until Thursday evening - a time lag that generated a great deal of speculation about whether the government would abide by the ruling. A failure to do so would have set up a confrontation between the executive and judicial branches of the government, and probably emboldened Erdogan's many critics, who say the prime minister has become increasingly authoritarian.

The lifting of the ban is likely to take some of the heat off Erdogan in international circles, where he has faced vocal criticism for measures he has taken to push back against the corruption investigation. But with a ban still in place on YouTube, and with other government steps to consolidate power seemingly irreversible, domestic and foreign critics are unlikely to be satisfied.

In its ruling, the court called the Twitter ban "illegal, arbitrary and a serious restriction on the right to obtain information."

While many users flocked to Twitter to celebrate its return, some said they still could not access the site without using measures to circumvent the ban. □



Argument may have preceded deadly Fort Hood attack

PAUL J. WEBER
WILL WEISSERT
Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas (AP) — The soldier who killed three people at Fort Hood may have argued with another service member shortly before the attack at the Texas military base, and investigators believe his unstable mental health contributed to the rampage, authorities said Thursday. The base's senior officer, Lt. Gen. Mark Milley, said there is a "strong possibility" that Spc. Ivan Lopez had a "verbal altercation" with another soldier or soldiers immediately before Wednesday's shooting, which unfolded on the same Army post that was the scene of an infamous 2009 mass shooting. However, there's no indication that he targeted specific soldiers, Milley said. Lopez never saw combat during a deployment to Iraq and had shown no apparent risk of violence before the shooting, officials said.

The 34-year-old truck driver seemed to have a clean record that showed no ties to extremist groups. But the Army secretary promised that investigators would keep all avenues open in their inquiry of the soldier whose rampage ended only after he fired a final bullet into his own head. "We're not making any assumptions by that. We're going to keep an open mind and an open investigation," Army Secretary John McHugh said, explaining that "possible ex-

tremist involvement is still being looked at very, very carefully."

A hospital official expressed optimism Thursday that all of the 16 people who were wounded in the shooting would survive. Three critically wounded

lems, and was taking medication.

Among the possibilities investigators were exploring was whether a fight or argument on the base triggered the attack.

Investigators searched the soldier's home Thursday

As he came within 20 feet (6 meters) of a police officer, the gunman put his hands up but then reached under his jacket and pulled out his gun. The officer drew her own weapon, and the suspect put his gun to his head and

The soldier was upset that he was granted only a 24-hour leave to attend her funeral, which was delayed for nearly a week so he could be there, the spokesman said. The leave was then extended to two days.

Lopez joined the island's National Guard in 1999 and served on a yearlong peacekeeping mission in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula in the mid-2000s. He enlisted with the Army in 2008, McHugh said.

Lopez saw no combat during a four-month deployment to Iraq as a truck driver in 2011. A review of his service record showed no Purple Heart, indicating he was never wounded, McHugh said. He arrived at Fort Hood in February from Fort Bliss, Texas.

He saw a psychiatrist last month and showed no "sign of any likely violence either to himself or others," McHugh said.

Shaneice Banks, a 21-year-old business-management student who lived in the same apartment complex as the Lopezes, said her husband, who also works at Fort Hood, helped the couple move in. Hours before the shooting, Banks said she ran in to Lopez when he came home for lunch and had a friendly exchange with him.

When word came out that there was a shooting at the base, Banks saw Lopez's wife frantically calling her husband over and over, trying to reach him via cellphone from the apartment's shared courtyard. □



This undated photo provided by Glidden Lopez shows Army Spc. Ivan Lopez. Authorities said Lopez killed three people and wounded 16 others in a shooting at Fort Hood, Texas, on Wednesday, April 2, 2014, before killing himself. Investigators believe his unstable mental health contributed to the rampage.

(AP Photo/Courtesy of Glidden Lopez)

patients were expected to survive. Several others were to be discharged Thursday, said Dr. Matthew Davis, the trauma director at Scott & White Memorial Hospital. Within hours of Wednesday's assault, investigators started looking into whether Lopez had lingering psychological trauma from his time in Iraq. Fort Hood's senior officer, Lt. Gen. Mark Milley, said the shooter had sought help for depression, anxiety and other prob-

and questioned his wife, Fort Hood spokesman Chris Haug said.

Lopez apparently walked into a building Wednesday and began firing a .45-caliber semi-automatic pistol. He then got into a vehicle and continued firing before entering another building. He was eventually confronted by military police in a parking lot, according to Lt. Gen. Mark Milley, senior officer on the base.

pulled the trigger a final time, Milley said.

Lopez grew up in Guayanilla, a town of fewer than 10,000 people on the southwestern coast of Puerto Rico, with a mother who was a nurse at a public clinic and a father who did maintenance for an electric utility company. Glidden Lopez Torres, who said he was a friend speaking for the family, said Lopez's mother died of a heart attack in November.

Senate panel votes to release CIA torture report

**BRADLEY KLAPPER
STEPHEN BRAUN**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee voted Thursday to release parts of a hotly contested, secret report that harshly criticizes CIA terror interrogations after Sept. 11, 2001, and the White House said it would instruct intelligence officials to cooperate fully. The panel voted 11-3 to order the declassification of almost 500 pages of a 6,300-page review that concluded waterboarding and other "enhanced interrogation methods" were excessively cruel and ineffective in producing valuable intelligence. Even some Republicans who agree with the spy agency that the findings are inaccurate voted in favor of declassification, saying it was important for the country to move on.

The intelligence committee and the CIA are embroiled in a bitter dispute related to the three-year study. Senators accuse the agency of spying on their investigation and deleting

files. The CIA says Senate staffers illegally accessed information. The Justice Department is reviewing competing criminal refer-

and the results, I think, were shocking," said Sen. Dianne Feinstein, a Democrat and the committee chairwoman. "The report

history that must never be allowed to happen again. This is not what Americans do."

The White House on Thurs-

to conduct declassification work quickly. CIA spokesman Dean Boyd said his agency would "carry out the review expeditiously."

Sen. Saxby Chambliss, the intelligence committee's top Republican, joined the vote in favor of declassification despite criticizing the report as a "waste of time." However, he said the U.S. public should be able to see the report alongside reservations among the Republican members of the committee.

"This is a chapter in our past that should have already been closed," Chambliss told reporters.

Members of the intelligence community have criticized the investigation for failing to include interviews from top spy agency officials who authorized or supervised the brutal interrogations. They questioned how the review could be fair or complete.

"Neither I or anyone else at the agency who had knowledge was interviewed," said Jose Rodriguez, the CIA's chief clandestine officer in the mid-2000s, who had operational oversight over the detention and interrogation program. □



Senate Intelligence Committee Chair Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif. speaks after a closed-door meeting on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, April 3, 2014, as the panel votes to approve declassifying part of a secret report on Bush-era interrogations of terrorism suspects puts the onus on the CIA and a reluctant White House to speed the release of one of the most definitive accounts about the government's actions after the 9/11 attacks. (AP Photo/Molly Riley)

als.

"The purpose of this review was to uncover the facts behind the secret program

exposes brutality that stands in sharp contrast to our values as a nation. It chronicles a stain on our

day restated President Barack Obama's support for declassifying the document.

Press secretary Jay Carney said the president will instruct intelligence officials

Dems still short on gun control

**ALAN FRAM
Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly a year after the Senate rejected an effort to expand background checks for gun buyers, top Senate Democrats said Thursday that they still lack the votes to successfully revisit the issue. A day after the latest shootings in Fort Hood in Texas, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, a Democrat, told reporters, "I would like to be able to bring it back up, but I need some more votes." Reid's comments were echoed by Sen. Joe Manchin, a Democrat who with Republican Sen. Pat Toomey authored the pivotal measure that the Senate defeated last April 17. Manchin said he's received "no firm commitments" for additional support, and didn't expect to see the measure

on the floor again unless proponents had more votes in hand.

The measure by Manchin and Toomey was a response to the December 2012 shooting deaths of 20 children and six adults at an elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut. It became one of President Barack Obama's top priorities, but the bill was scuttled in the face of opposition from the powerful National Rifle Association, a gun advocacy group. Senators voted 54-46 for the legislation last year, short of the 60 votes it would have needed for passage. Four Republicans backed the proposal while four Democrats were against it.

Obama and top Democrats spoke of revisiting the issue, but it hasn't happened and seems unlikely to soon. □

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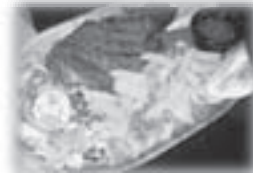
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Ruling hints more campaign-finance dominoes may fall

ADAM LIPTAK

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WASHINGTON - The sweeping language and logic of Wednesday's Supreme Court decision on campaign finance may imperil other legal restrictions on money in politics.

The 5-4 decision, which struck down overall limits on contributions by indi-

viduals to candidates and parties, was the latest in a series of campaign finance decisions from the court led by Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. that took an expansive view of First Amendment rights and a narrow one of political corruption.

According to experts in election law, there is no

reason to think that the march toward deregulating election spending will stop with the ruling in *McCutcheon v. Federal Election Commission*.

"Those who support limits see the court right now as the T. Rex from 'Jurassic Park,'" said Justin Levitt, a law professor at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles.

"What's next? 'Just don't move. He can't see us if we don't move.'"

For now, federal law bars corporations from making contributions to candidates, though they can spend what they like independently to support or oppose candidates. Contributions from individuals to candidates are capped at \$2,600 per election. Individual contributions to po-

litical parties are capped, too. Public financing of elections is allowed.

All of those limits may be vulnerable under the reasoning of the *McCutcheon* and *Citizens United* decisions, as well as the "soft money" ban, which limits individual contributions to political parties even if the money is to be spent on activities unrelated to federal elections. □



Protesters rally outside the Supreme Court in Washington, April 2, 2014. The Supreme Court on Wednesday, issued a major campaign finance decision, striking down limits on federal campaign contributions for the first time.

(Doug Mills/The New York Times)

Hillary Clinton promotes anti-poverty effort

KAREN MATTHEWS

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton on Thursday promoted a new campaign that aims to harness science and technology to end extreme global poverty by 2030.

The U.S. Agency for International Development is undertaking the anti-poverty effort with 32 partners from private industry, colleges and universities, philanthropies and non-governmental organizations.

Clinton, a former U.S. first lady who is widely seen as a potential 2016 Democratic presidential contender, said planning for the campaign, the Global Development Lab, started in 2011 when she was secretary of state, adding, "by government terms that is a warp-speed accomplishment." "We intend to try to change and better lives all over the world," Clinton said in announcing the initiative in New York. "We intend to learn how bet-

ter to scale successful efforts so they reach far more people." USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah said the campaign, called the U.S. Global Development Lab, will tackle issues such as the lack of clean water and access to education. Shah said the initiative will engage academics, entrepreneurs, corporate leaders and others "to invent, test and scale the most promising and cost-effective solutions to end extreme poverty." □

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US home market: Few buyers and not enough sellers

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)—Entering the 2014 spring buying season, the U.S. housing market faces an unusual dilemma: Too few people are selling homes. Yet too few buyers can afford the homes that are for sale.

"Both sides of the equation are in a funk," said Glenn Kelman, CEO of the real estate brokerage Redfin.

A 13.4 percent jump in the average price of a home sold last year, according

could keep sales flat to falling.

On the other hand, many lenders are easing the barriers for those with less-than-sterling credit. For these people, qualifying for a mortgage could become a little easier.

All of which leaves real estate, much like the rest of the economy, still trudging back to health nearly a half-decade after the recession ended. After last year's growth spurt, the housing recovery may

months in 2011.

Housing supply previously dipped toward the 5-month level during the height of the boom in 2006, when buyers snapped up homes faster than they could be added. This time, fewer homes are being listed because roughly 20 percent of owners are underwater on their mortgages — meaning their sale price wouldn't be enough to repay their loan.

Still, warmer weather, job growth and a strengthen-

in competition with one another, raised their offers.

Prices climbed in locales such as San Francisco, where a ton of money is chasing few properties and there's not enough construction. Bay Area homes have surged 23 percent, on average, the past 12 months, according to the S&P Case-Shiller index. That was faster than any other major metro area except Las Vegas, where much of the housing stock was rebounding from the depths

would likely lose money on the deal. The 2007 housing bust still haunts the market.

CREDIT STANDARDS ARE LOOSER

You might have thought the economic meltdown would have shut off home loans to people with middling-to-weak credit. Yet something close to subprime borrowing has just started a comeback.

Wells Fargo is now offering mortgages to subprime borrowers with credit scores as low as 600, down from 640. (The median credit score for 30-year fixed mortgages had been around 730.) And non-bank lenders such as Carrington Mortgage Services are moving into that territory. Carrington has dropped its minimum credit score to 550. It's a sign that lenders are becoming less tight-fisted after restricting credit in the wake of the financial crisis.

Lenders are accepting borrowers they once rejected in part because they're hungry for more business after mortgage refinancing plunged in the past year as interest rates rose. The average 30-year fixed mortgage rate has risen about a percentage point to 4.4 percent from near-historic lows in May. A subprime borrower with a credit score of 550 would pay 7.15 percent, according to Carrington's rate sheet.

HIGHER-END HOMES ARE HOTTER INVESTMENTS

It's better to be on the luxury side of the real estate market for the moment. Prices generally rise faster than at the lower end. And sales have been improving in the past year.

Sales of homes worth more than \$1 million rose 14.4 percent over the past 12 months, according to Bank of America Merrill Lynch. By contrast, sales of properties valued at less than \$100,000 dropped 18 percent. A key reason: Fewer foreclosed homes are being listed.

Prices for more expensive homes have also risen much faster, according to Zillow. The online real estate firm divided the U.S. housing stock into thirds based on price. □



A woman walks across the street from the Venn on Market apartment and condominium building in San Francisco. Entering the 2014 spring buying season, the U.S. housing market faces an unusual dilemma: Too few people are selling homes. Yet too few buyers can afford the homes that are for sale. A 13.4 percent jump in the average price of a home sold last year, according to the Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller 20-city index, hasn't managed to coax more homeowners to sell. And combined with higher mortgage rates, higher prices have made homes costlier for first-time buyers as well as for all-cash investors.

(AP Photo/Jeff Chiu)

to the Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller 20-city index, hasn't managed to coax more homeowners to sell. And combined with higher mortgage rates, higher prices have made homes costlier for first-time buyers as well as for all-cash investors.

Average prices nationally are expected to rise by single digits this year. The gains could be strongest in areas with solid job growth, such as Seattle and Austin (Texas). And while construction will put more homes on the market, lack of affordability

have begun an awkward adolescence, one prone to fits and starts that can defy predictions.

Here are five vital signs that will shape home sales this spring and the rest of the year:

WHERE ARE THE SELLERS?

Good question. It's slim pickings for a lot of would-be buyers. The brutal winter prevented many Americans on the East Coast from listing their homes in recent months. About five months' worth of homes are on the market, compared with 5.9 months in 2012 and 8.3

ing economy are expected to encourage more listings this spring.

"We're all trying to figure out where the sellers are," said Redfin CEO Kelman. "Everyone seems to be waiting until April or May or June." About 60 percent of Redfin buyers faced bidding wars in February, down from 73 percent at this time last year.

When few sellers emerged last year, prices for the limited number of homes available surged. Would-be buyers, facing a shortage of homes and locked

of the recession.

This problem usually corrects itself. Higher prices should lure more sellers into the market who see an opportunity to cash out. That would then lead to more listings for would-buyers while limiting bidding wars. This appears to have happened in Los Angeles, where more homes have been put up for sale, and they're staying on the market longer, according to sales data.

But around the U.S., many homeowners are still reluctant to sell because they

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US Financial Front:

American service firms grow more quickly, boost hiring

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) —

U.S. service firms expanded more quickly last month as new orders rose and hiring increased, a positive sign the economy is rebounding after an unusually cold winter. The Institute for Supply Management said Thursday that its service-sector index rose to 53.1 in March from 51.6 in February. Any reading above 50 indicates expansion.



Rebecca Wilcomb, chef de cuisine at Herbsaint Restaurant in New Orleans, plates braised short rib with potato rosti and horseradish cream. The Institute for Supply Management released positive data in its service sector index for March, on Thursday, April 3, 2014.

(AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)

The increase was driven by a big jump in a measure of hiring, which rose 6.1 points to 53.4. That reversed most of a nine-point plunge in February that was mostly blamed on the weather. The increase is a hopeful sign just before the government's employment report for March, to be released Friday. A gauge of new orders in-

creased 2.1 points to 53.4. Many companies that responded to the survey said that weather still weighed on their business, particularly earlier in the month. That suggests business could improve further in April.

"The economy is slowly recovering from the weather-induced freeze and we expect a further thawing during the spring," said Paul Dales, an economist at Capital Economics. The survey covers busi-

nesses that employ 90 percent of the workforce, including retail, construction, health care and financial services firms.

The ISM's survey adds to other evidence that the economy is picking up as the weather improves. Freezing temperatures and severe snowstorms in January and February had shut down factories, interrupted work at construction sites and cut into car sales as consumers remained at home. But automakers said Tuesday that sales rose 6 percent in March. That suggests Americans are willing to spend on big purchases, a hopeful sign for the broader economy.

And the ISM's separate survey of manufacturers, released Tuesday, rose to

53.7 last month. Factories cranked out more goods and new orders rose, the survey found. But manufacturers added jobs at a slower pace.

The number of Americans seeking unemployment aid rose last week but remained at close to pre-recession levels. The four week average of applications, a less volatile measure, stayed near a six-month low. That suggests companies are cutting fewer workers and may even be hiring more. Still, service companies are growing at only a modest pace. The index has drifted downward after peaking at 57.9 in August.

Most economists expect growth slowed in the January-March quarter to a 1.5 percent to 2 percent annual rate. That would be slower than the fourth quarter's 2.6 percent pace. But growth is expected to accelerate to nearly 3 percent for the rest of the year, as hiring improves and Americans spend more. □

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Engineered fast-grow salmon may be a tough sell

MARY CLARE JALONICK

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration has stalled for more than four years on deciding whether to approve a fast-growing salmon that would be the first genetically modified

animal approved for human consumption.

During that time, opponents of the technology have taken advantage of increasing consumer concern about genetically modified foods and have urged several major retail-

ers not to sell it. So far, two of the nation's biggest grocers, Safeway and Kroger, have pledged to keep the salmon off their shelves if it is approved.

Supporters of genetically engineered fish and meat say they expect Food and

huge opportunity, critics see a food supply placed at risk. They say modified organisms can escape into the wild or mingle with native species, with unknown effects.

"These are fundamental questions we have to ask

spent \$77 million on its AquaAdvantage salmon, which has an added gene from the Pacific Chinook salmon that enables the salmon to produce more growth hormone, allowing it to grow faster.

AquaBounty executives say there are several safeguards designed to prevent the fish from escaping and breeding with wild salmon. Still, opponents call it "Frankenfish" and say not enough is known about it. The FDA won't say how many applications are in line behind the salmon. But given AquaBounty's long road, other projects have remained on the shelf or moved to other countries. James Murray, a professor of animal sciences at the University of California at Davis, has genetically modified goats that produce milk designed to fight childhood diarrhea in poor nations. He moved his project to Brazil, where he says the regulatory environment is friendlier and the government is funding some of his research.

"You can't get funding in this country because you can't get regulation," Murray says.

Similarly, Canadian researchers have said they won't pursue the "enviropig" in the United States after investors raised concerns about the length of the FDA review process. Another project backed by Recombinetics would genetically modify cattle to be born without horns so they would not have to be removed during slaughter, an efficiency for meat-packers. Recombinetics chief executive Scott Fahrenkrug says the project is in a holding pattern as investors eye the lengthy salmon approval process, but he says technologies like his will be necessary as global population is set to increase.

The company is now developing engineered products for the medical market, but Fahrenkrug says they hope to produce cattle for meat. "The agriculture market is huge, and that's where we want to be," he says. □



This undated 2010 handout photo provided by AquaBounty Technologies shows two same-age salmon, a genetically modified salmon, rear, and a non-genetically modified salmon, foreground. Don't expect to find genetically modified salmon on store shelves any time soon. The Obama administration has stalled for more than four years on deciding whether to approve a fast-growing salmon that would be the first genetically modified animal approved for human consumption.

(AP Photo/AquaBounty Technologies)



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Drug Administration approval of the salmon and still hope to find a market for it. However, the retailers' caution and lengthy regulatory delays have made investors skittish.

"The FDA delay has caused developers to take a pause," says Dr. David Edwards of the Biotechnology Industry Organization, the main industry group for genetically engineered agriculture. "They're not really sure where to go as far as the regulatory system."

By altering genetic materials of animals, scientists have proposed — and in some cases actually created — animals that would be bred to be free of diseases, be cleaner in their environments or grow more efficiently. Think chickens bred to resist avian flu, "enviropigs" whose manure doesn't pollute as much or cattle bred without horns so they don't have to be taken off during slaughter. But where the scientists see

of society," says Lisa Archer of Friends of the Earth, an advocacy group that has lobbied retailers not to sell the modified salmon and has urged consumers not to eat it. "Where is all of this going to end up? Where do we draw the line? Let's look at the full implications and the full costs."

There is no evidence that the foods would be unsafe, but for some, it is an ethical issue. Archer says people have a greater "visceral response" to eating modified fish and meat than they do engineered crops, which are already fully integrated into the food supply. The FDA said in 2010 that the modified salmon appears to be safe to eat, and said in 2012 that it is unlikely to harm the environment. But an FDA spokeswoman said "it is not possible to predict a timeline for when a decision will be made."

Ron Stotish, AquaBounty's chief executive, says the company has already



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Moscow calls on Ukraine to pay down gas debt

NATALIYA VASILYEVA
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia is tightening its economic screws on Ukraine, ordering Thursday a further increase in the price of gas it sells to the country and asking that past bills — which are growing by the day — be paid. Ukraine, whose economy is on the brink of collapse as it awaits international aid, relies on Russia for almost all its energy. Russia had been giving it discounts on gas as long as the government was willing to have close ties with Moscow. Now that the new government has signed a partnership with the European Union instead, those favors are being pulled back. Alexei Miller, the CEO of Russia's state-owned gas company Gazprom, on Thursday said the discounts, a part of which were withdrawn earlier this month, would be scrapped altogether. In practice that means a 70 percent hike in prices that will add to Ukraine's \$2.2 billion in gas arrears. "Our Ukrainian counter-

parts should find the necessary funding to repay the debts and pay the bills because otherwise our co-operation in this sphere, as well as in other spheres, would not be possible," Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said. He stopped short of saying whether Russia is prepared to turn off the gas taps to Ukraine, like it did in 2009.

The statement "certainly ratchets up the threat of a gas war," said Andrew Neff at IHS in Moscow, although he said it was unlikely unless Ukraine begins siphoning gas. The effect on the wider region, however, would not be as severe as in January 2009 when a halt in Russian supplies left millions across Eastern Europe with-

out heating. Gazprom has since built new pipelines bypassing Ukraine and increased the capacity of existing ones. The fact that Russia has scrapped all the discounts for Ukraine indicates Russia is "lining up to get its money when the IMF, the EU (and) the U.S. come in to prop up Ukraine and Naftogaz," said Neff. □



Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, left, meets with Gazprom's Chief Executive Alexei Miller in Moscow, Russia, Thursday, April 3, 2014. Russian gas giant Gazprom on Thursday urged Ukraine to pay its debt, and announced a 70 percent rise in the charge for future supplies. (AP Photo/RIA-Novosti, Dmitry Astakhov)

Official: Troops kill 40 gunmen in Iraqi capita

SAMEER N. YACCOUB
Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Fighting between Iraqi government troops and al-Qaida-inspired militants killed 40 gunmen and an army officer Thursday near Baghdad, authorities said, as attacks elsewhere in the country left five people dead ahead of elections this month.

In a statement posted on the Interior Ministry's website, spokesman Saad Maan Ibrahim said that members of security forces foiled an assault by the militants on a military base in Youssifiyah, killing 40 "terrorist attackers."

Maan said that one army officer was killed. Youssifiyah is about 20 kilometers (12 miles) south of Baghdad.

Police officials said the attack started late Wednesday and lasted for a few hours.

They confirmed the military's account and said the attackers withdrew after the arrival of security enforcements to the area. Thursday afternoon, a car bomb exploded in a commercial street in Mahmoudiya town just south of Baghdad, killing three people and wounding 12, police said.

Another car bombing in the town of Haswa, 50 kilometers (30 miles) south of Baghdad, killed one person and wounded five, police said.

Medical officials in nearby hospitals confirmed the casualty figures from the car bombings.

All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to journalists. □

Bomb explodes on Musharraf's route from hospital

ASIF SHAHZAD
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A bomb struck along a route used by Pakistan's former President Pervez Musharraf, going off shortly after he drove by it on his way home from the hospital, a police official and the former ruler's spokeswoman said Thursday. Musharraf was not harmed in the explosion and there was no immediate claim of responsibility for the bombing. The Pakistani general had survived multiple assassination attempts while he was

in office. When he returned to the country last year, the Pakistani Taliban vowed to kill him. In the latest attack, Musharraf was traveling from the military hospital in Rawalpindi where he's been treated since January to his house in the capital of Islamabad when the blast went off early Thursday, said police official Mohammed Hayat. Musharraf's convoy had crossed a bridge entering the capital when the bomb exploded shortly after, Hayat said. He said the blast was caused by 2 kilo-

grams (4.4 pounds) of explosives, adding that it was not clear whether it was a remote control or time device. Hayat said Musharraf appeared to be the target of the blast but it was not immediately clear how far his vehicle was from the explosion. Musharraf's spokeswoman, Asia Ishaq, said the retired general was already at home when the blast went off and that he was fine. An aide to Musharraf who did not want to be identified because he was not authorized to speak to the media, said

the convoy had left the hospital about 20 minutes earlier than planned. Ishaq said it was up to the authorities to make sure nothing happens to him. "All extremist and terrorist forces want to kill Musharraf," said the spokeswoman. "If anything happens to Musharraf, the government will be responsible." The blast ripped up a small section, about one-yard wide, of the brick sidewalk. Police initially cordoned off the area to gather evidence but later removed the tape and traffic passed freely. □

Israel calls off prisoner release; Kerry seeks to revive talks

MICHAEL R. GORDON
ISABEL KERSHNER
© 2014 New York Times

ALGIERS, Algeria - Israel has called off plans to release a fourth group of Palestinian prisoners, people involved in the threatened peace talks said Thursday, an indication of the severity of the impasse between the two sides despite the pressure from U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry to keep the negotiations alive. The Israeli decision was a response to the announcement Tuesday by the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, that his administration was formally seeking to join 15 international bodies, which the Israelis regarded as an unacceptable move that would subvert the direct negotiations with Israel for Palestinian statehood. Abbas said he took the step because Israel had not kept what he called its pledge to release the prisoners as part of the negotiations process, which began last summer. According to people involved in the negotiations, Tzipi Livni, the Israeli gov-



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry speaks before a long-planned meeting with Algerian officials on security issues, in Algiers, April 3, 2014. Kerry pointedly called upon the leaders of Israel and the Palestinian Authority to lead by example, his first remarks on the peace process since a canceled visit to the West Bank that reflected a deep crisis in talks.

(Jacquelyn Martin/Pool via The New York Times)

ernment's chief negotiator, informed her Palestinian counterparts of the decision to cancel the release of a last batch of long-serv-

ing Palestinian prisoners, many of them convicted of murder, during a meeting that lasted into early Thursday. The news, while

not unexpected, was another blow to the entreaties by Kerry, who had canceled a trip Wednesday to the West Bank to meet with Abbas after the formal submission of applications to join 15 international conventions and treaties. Kerry, visiting Algiers on Thursday for a long-planned meeting on security issues, made his first public comment

about the faltering Mideast peace negotiations since he canceled the meeting with Abbas, warning both the Israeli and Palestinian sides that they must "lead" if they wanted to preserve the chances for a historic agreement.

Kerry signaled that he was prepared to continue his efforts to encourage the two sides to reach a deal. □

Russia angry over German minister Schaeuble's Crimea-Hitler comment

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's Foreign Ministry said Thursday it had lodged a formal complaint about a German minister's statement comparing Russia's annexation of Crimea to Adolf Hitler's policies. The ministry said that German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble's comparison of last month's incorporation of Crimea into Russia to Hitler's 1938 takeover of the Sudetenland region of Czechoslovakia represented a "rude juggling of historic events and facts."

It said in a statement that Russia considers "such pseudo-historical excursions by the German min-

ister as a provocation," adding that the German ambassador visited the Russian Foreign Ministry where he was handed a formal note of protest. The German Foreign Ministry disputed that Ambassador Ruediger von Fritsch had been formally summoned, saying the ambassador, who started his job last month, had been at the ministry for an introductory visit in any event. Russia's annexation of Crimea followed a referendum called just two weeks after Russian troops had overtaken the Ukrainian region. Ukraine and the West have rejected the vote and the annexation. □



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Haiti PM shakes up Cabinet for 3rd time in 2 years

TRENTON DANIEL
Associated Press
PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— Haiti's prime minister used Twitter on Wednesday to announce he was replacing about half of the 22-member Cabinet, marking the third major government shake-up in less than two years.

There had been talk since November that Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe wanted to change ministers because of grumblings in the government that some of them couldn't pull their weight.

But the decision to form a new Cabinet wasn't taken until after the executive and legislative branches and opposition parties signed a broad agreement last month that, among other things, seeks to organize parliamentary and local elections before year's end.

Perhaps the most unusual appointment is Marie Carmelle Jean-Marie as finance minister. She resigned from that job last year for reasons neither she nor officials ever disclosed, although a media report said she left because she didn't receive the support she wanted for bringing transparency and other reforms to the office.

Lamothe's office also named new ministers for interior, foreign affairs, education, defense, environment and sports.

It didn't immediately give reasons for the changes.

The new interior minister will be Reginald Delva, a key post that oversees domestic security and local government and could play a role in the upcoming elections. □

Venezuela:

Student protest ends in violent clashes



An opposition student, on the ground, is attacked by a pro-government group inside of the Central University of Venezuela, UCV, during an anti-government protest in Caracas, Venezuela, Thursday, April 3, 2014. Students attempted to march from the university to protest the country's deteriorating economy, but hundreds of riot police prevented them from leaving campus, deploying tear gas and flash-bang grenades. The students threw stones and fireworks. The clash ended with a policeman hurt and at least one student badly injured.

(AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — A university protest in Venezuela has ended with at least one student badly injured and a policeman hurt.

Students attempted to march from a Caracas university Thursday to protest the socialist country's deteriorating economy. But hundreds of riot police prevented them from leaving campus, deploying tear gas and flash-bang grenades. The students threw stones and firecrackers, one of which caught a policeman in the side.

The hours-long street battle ended with pro-government militia members in bandanas storming the campus.

Student leader Juan Requesens says at least three protesters were hospitalized. The militia members prevented journalists from photographing a student who lay on the ground, apparently gravely injured.

The students captured two counter-protesters and stripped them naked. Weeks of similar clashes have left at least 35 people dead. □

In Jamaica, Vybz Kartel gets life for murder

DAVID McFADDEN
Associated Press
KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)

— A Jamaican judge on Thursday sentenced dancehall reggae star Vybz Kartel and three other men to life in prison for the 2011 murder of an associate.

While police in riot gear watched over barricaded streets outside the court in downtown Kingston, Judge Lennox Campbell ruled the entertainer must serve 35 years behind bars before he can be eligible for parole. At that point, the tattooed Jamaican deejay who has dominated the brash reggae-rap hybrid

of dancehall for a decade would be 73.

Last month, a jury convicted the 38-year-old Kartel and three co-defendants of killing Clive "Lizard" Williams, who was beaten to death in August 2011 after being lured to Kartel's house to answer for two missing guns. His body has never been found.

One of the key pieces of evidence in the 65-day trial, one of the longest in Jamaican history, was a text message that police said they retrieved from Kartel's phone saying Williams had been chopped up in a "mincemeat" so fine his remains would never be lo-

cated. On Thursday, dozens of onlookers stood at the street barricades awaiting the sentencing. Some zealous fans yelled in anguish when they heard news of Kartel's life sentence.

"Wickedness! They take away the 'world boss,'" one woman exclaimed, referring to one of Kartel's nicknames.

Defense lawyer Tom Tavares-Finson said he expected to file an appeal.

When Kartel was convicted last month, the only dissenting juror was arrested on charges of attempting to bribe the panel in an effort to free the music star, whose real name is Adidja

Palmer. The juror denies wrongdoing.

Authorities said the case had posed numerous security challenges. Prosecution witnesses and relatives of the victim needed state protection due to numerous threats. Officers were also threatened, including Detective Sgt. Patrick Linton, whose home was attacked with a fire bomb after he testified against Kartel.

Police officials also said intelligence indicated people were paid to gather outside the court to show support for Kartel and "create disorder during the closing stages of the trial." □

Dubai firm buys stake in Kerzner's Atlantis hotels

AYA BATRAWY
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — A Dubai government conglomerate behind some of the emirate's industrial powerhouses said Thursday it bought a "significant" stake in the international hotel operator that runs the Atlantis hotel on the city's main palm-shaped island.

Investment Corporation of Dubai said it bought the stake in Kerzner International Holdings from the family of its founder and several institutional investors. Neither company disclosed the purchase price, but an ICD official told The Associated Press the investment company now owns a stake of more than 40 percent.

ICD is an investment arm of the Dubai government. The CEO of ICD, Mohammed Al Shaibani, is now chairman of the hotel operator, replacing founder Sol Kerzner.

Goldman Sachs and Colony Capital also have holdings in the company. Another state-owned Dubai firm, Istithmar World, bought out Kerzner's stake in the Atlantis Palm in Dubai in 2012.

Kerzner still runs the hotel operations for the One&Only and Atlantis brand in Dubai, as well resorts in the Bahamas, Mauritius, Maldives, Mexico and South Africa. A new Atlantis resort is being planned in China.

Al Shaibani said the investment comes on the back of Dubai's push to boost its hotel and tourism industry as the city prepares to host the World Expo in 2020.

"This investment reaffirms ICD's commitment to support the long-term growth of our domestic hospitality market, a key pillar of and growth sector for the Dubai economy," Al Shaibani said in a statement.

ICD's holdings include the Middle East's biggest airline Emirates and a stake in Emaar Properties, the builder of the world's tallest tower, the Burj Khalifa. □

China unveils mini stimulus as economy sputters

KELVIN CHAN

AP Business Writer

HONG KONG (AP) — China's leaders have unveiled a mini-stimulus aimed at shoring up sputtering growth in the world's No. 2 economy.

It comes as signs mount that China's economy continues to slow, raising fears it may expand less than the 7.5 percent that the country's leaders have targeted. Factory data released earlier this week showed

risk of seeing growth slipping to below 7 percent," HSBC economists Qu Hongbin and Sun Junwei said in a report. "The government is clearly signaling that it intends to follow up with real policy actions to

following the 2008 financial crisis. The sweeping stimulus helped China's economy recover rapidly but also led to a credit boom that leaders are now trying to rein in.

Capital Economics said in a commentary that Beijing's latest steps are "simply reheated versions of previous announcements." At most, some previously planned spending will occur sooner, and this suggests officials don't believe China's economic situation is as dire as financial markets fear, the report said.

Parts of the package are aimed at financing the construction of public housing and railways, two important parts of China's broader urbanization drive. The latest measures call for slum clearance to be accelerated. To support redevelopment projects, the China Development Bank, the country's biggest policy lender, will set up a special agency to issue home financing bonds.

To finance railway construction, authorities will create a special fund worth 200-300 billion yuan (\$32-\$48 billion) a year. They will also issue up to 150 billion yuan of bonds annually and encourage bank loans.

Li reiterated that China plans to build 6,600 kilometers (4,101 miles) of railway this year, some 1,000 kilometers more than was built last year. □



Workers clean windows of the China World Trade Center in Beijing, China Wednesday, April 2, 2014. China's leaders have unveiled a mini-stimulus aimed at shoring up sputtering growth in the world's No. 2 economy.

(AP Photo/Andy Wong)

Under the measures announced by Premier Li Keqiang, small businesses will get bigger tax breaks, social housing will be built to replace shantytowns and railway construction will be sped up.

Li, China's top economic official, announced the new measures on Wednesday evening after a regular meeting of the State Council, China's cabinet.

that business conditions in the first quarter remained mostly weak. China's economy has been decelerating after a decade of double-digit growth as its communist leaders try to shift the economy's focus to domestic consumption instead of trade and investment.

The stimulus announcement "means policymakers don't want to take the

maintain growth."

China's growth rates remain high compared with the recent sluggish standards of Western nations, but last year's expansion of 7.7 percent was the slowest in two decades.

China's policymakers are opting for smaller, more finely tuned economic relief measures rather than the massive spending and borrowing they unleashed

France to renegotiate deficit target with EU

GREG KELLER

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — France's new finance minister sparked a dispute with Europe on his first day in office Thursday when he suggested Paris renegotiate the speed at which it cuts its budget deficit to limits set by the European Union.

Michel Sapin told radio station France Inter that France still aims to reduce its deficit to 3 percent of GDP, but that the pace at which that is achieved should be discussed. France had pre-

viously promised to do so by 2015.

The idea drew rapid criticism from European Central Bank President Mario Draghi. "Undermining agreed rules undermines trust," he told a press conference. Sapin took over as finance minister from Pierre Moscovici on Thursday.

France missed its deficit target last year and has repeatedly pushed back the date by which it will bring its finances into line with European limits. Its deficit last year was 4.3 percent.

The European Commission — the bloc's executive arm policing compliance with the deficit rules — has left no doubt that it expects bold and swift action from France to meet its budgetary and reform targets.

"It is essential that France acts decisively, both to ensure the sustainability of its public finances and to address well-known bottlenecks to competitiveness and growth and thus employment," EU Economics Commissioner Olli Rehn said earlier this week.

Speaking later after a hand-over ceremony at the finance ministry, Sapin sought to recast the deficit debate as one not of France versus the EU, but one of France versus itself.

"It's important for us to keep our deficit targets because they are pledges to ourselves, because it's in the profound interest of France," Sapin said. "If we want France to be respected and heard, a France that matters, it must put order in its finances, independently of any pledges." □



Lydia and Janet Celebrate Birthdays aboard Jolly Pirates!

MALMOK - Jolly Pirates, well known for infectious fun during sail and snorkel cruises, has long been a favorite activity of guests on Aruba. Word-of-mouth approval has translated into thousands of repeat visitors each year. Just ask friends Lydia and Janet what they love about a Jolly Pirates Cruise and they will tell you it's the Jolly Pirates crew that makes their cruise worth writing home about.

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Loyal Visitors honored at Windsurf Village by Aruba Tourism Authority



MALMOK - Recently, Mr. Bob and Mrs. Linda Turrentine, resident of Minnesota, were honored as Goodwill Ambassador for visiting

Aruba for 20 years consecutively. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a

token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more years consecutive. The honorees are mem-



bers of Windsurf Village and have been enjoying the Island every year. Ms. Darline S. de Cuba representing Aruba Tourism Authority and Ms. Strinda Rasmijn conducted the ceremony at Windsurf Village. Top reason for return-

ing provided by the honorees were they consider Aruba to be the "Happy Island" for windsurf and Carnival event as well the great weather, and Friendly Aruban Hospitality, as well they feel home away from home. □

Beauty On The Beach

Alyssa Jones

She is from Toronto, Canada. It's her second time in Aruba, staying with her family at Renaissance Ocean tower. She loves Aruba's beaches, shopping and food.

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Scol di Musica Rufo Wever presents in concert: Encanto

ORANJESTAD - The Aruban Music school Scol di Musica Rufo Wever presents, under the supervision of Albert Croes, Catherine Provence, Rob Rijnbout and Daniel Werleman, her pupil concert 'Encanto', at the Chapel, Dutch Marine Base, in Savaneta, on Sunday, April 6th, 2014. Show starts at 7pm, with an entrance fee of Afl .5. Tickets are available at the administration of the music school 'Scol di Musica Rufo Wever', Cas di Cultura, second floor and at the evening of the concert in the Chapel, Dutch Marine Base, Savaneta. □

Kelly and Larry's home-run to Aruba and Bugaloe's Karaoke Night



PALM BEACH - Canadians Kelly and Larry Brown from Oshawa, Ontario have been calling Aruba their second home for over ten years, and Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill their all time fa-

vorite hangout on the island. Usually the couple spends their vacation in Aruba during the month of September, however a rough Canadian winter and inches of snow made them escape the cold and brought the Browns to Aruba this week for a mini-break. Last Saturday, on the night of arrival in Aruba at 8PM the Browns skipped their unpacking and rushed straight to Bugaloe for this beach bar's famous Karaoke Night. "You could call it a home-run. We just love the staff of Bugaloe, the food, the ambiance and live-band Equator that performs here weekly, and our absolute favorite being Saturday's Karaoke Night. To us, sitting at the Bugaloe Pier and relaxing, watching people sing and dance with a drink in our hand is the ultimate vacation", Kelly comments. The beach bar on Palm Beach became so spe-



cial for the Canadians that some time ago Larry decided to ask Kelly to marry him at Bugaloe. Larry was very nervous one night and waited for a quiet moment to propose to Kelly but the buzz never stopped that night at the bar, so they went home. "The second day I tried it again, however at the 'moment supreme' I

was asked by a group of British tourists to take their picture. We ended up having a great night with the British, however the proposal failed once more. I ended up proposing somewhere else, but Bugaloe will always remain part of my marriage proposal memories" Larry elaborates. The Canadian couple has

gotten quite attached to the European flavors in Aruba as their favorite snack at Bugaloe is Dutch 'bitterballen' and their favorite drink Spanish sangria. Therefore Bugaloe Beach Bar offered Kelly and Larry a home-made sangria, to toast to their return to Aruba and to many years of happy vacationing in Aruba. Cheers!☐



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At Cas Di Cultura: Arubian Soul in Concert a Huge Success



ORANJESTAD - Last Tuesday, April 1st, in a completely filled Cas di Cultura, the audience attending enjoyed the first ever Arubian Soul Concert. The event also functioned as

an album release event for the like-named album featuring traditional and non-traditional music from Aruba. Approximately 500 people could enjoy a nice Tumba, Salsa, Zouk,

Jazz and even Caribbean House in Aruba's local theatre.

The idea behind the concert and the album originated from Michelangelo Koolman, the main composer of the album. After having been asked by various tourists while playing in restaurants if he has albums for sale with his typical Aruban music he decided to collaborate with other local artist such as Miguel Genser, who can be seen in the hit movie 'Abo So' playing this week in local theatres, Martin Buitenweg, a well-known guitarist, Ron Martis, Chantal Quant and many more to make an Aruban World Music album, in order to promote Aruban music internationally.

Aruba is a melting pot of cultures, therefore the music on the album and featured during the show combined all the musical and cultural influences that are present on this beautiful island.

With the financial help of



Unoca, the foundation that stimulates cultural development on Aruba, the musicians realized this very professionally produced album so that any music lover who listens to it will hear the soul of Aruba. Therefore the name: Arubian Soul.

Aruba Today was present at the show and interviewed Michelangelo Koolman briefly:

"I am very satisfied with the attendance. Aruba demonstrated her love for music and her cultural heritage in a massive form.

After the show we already sold 70 autographed albums and there are plans for a second show. As a result of working together with Unoca, Cas Di Cultura, the local media and Jane Pr +, this event was a definitive success. Also I wanted to thank everybody that collaborated on the album, for the show and the public attending"

says a very content Michelangelo Koolman. The album is available on iTunes, at the 'Waf' in front of Royal Plaza, Unoca and Hopi Bon Grill. □





Mickelson among leaders at Houston Open

KURT VOIGT

AP Sports Writer

HUMBLE, Texas (AP) — Phil Mickelson is among the leaders after shooting a bogey-free 4-under par 68 in his opening round of the Houston Open, showing no effects of the muscle pull that forced him to withdraw from last week's Texas Open.

The five-time major winner, who practiced at Augusta National for two days this week in advance of the Masters, is three shots back of leaders Bill Haas and Charley Hoffman — both who shot 7-under 65.

Keegan Bradley and Matt Kuchar lead a group of five golfers at 6 under after Thursday's play. J.B. Holmes, Erik Compton and Jim Renner are also at 6 under, while 10 golfers are at 5 under.

Former world No. 1 Rory McIlroy, playing in the afternoon on the 7,441-yard Golf Club of Houston, finished with a 2-under 70 — five shots back of the lead. World No. 10 Dustin Johnson withdrew after an 8-over 80. While Haas had five birdies on his back nine to earn a share of the lead, it was Mickelson — who was forced to withdraw during last week's third round in San Antonio after pulling a muscle in his right side — who was the center of attention leading into next week at Augusta National.

Mickelson has won the Masters three times, the latest coming in 2010, but his status was in doubt following last week's injury. "I'm surprised because I was worried about the Masters," Mickelson said. "I was certainly worried about Houston, but it healed a lot quicker. I felt great today; didn't feel any pain or discomfort and didn't even think about it."

The left-hander, however, underwent treatment in the days following his departure from San Antonio — along with fitting in two days of light practice at Augusta National — and appeared in top form on Thursday.



Continued on Page 20

Bill Haas birdies on the eighth hole during the first round of the Houston Open golf tournament, Thursday, April 3, 2014, in Humble Texas.
Associated Press

AP Interview: Pele mourns demise of 'jogo bonito'

RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Pele is mourning the passing of the beautiful game, a phrase many say was coined by the 73-year-old Brazilian football wizard.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Pele said tactics have become more and more defensive over the past decades since his retirement. Flowing attack has become a rarity and Pele is saddened by that.

"Italy always played defense — in my time, now, always," he said. "But unfortunately today, I think because of the millions, because of the new technology, because of the money from the sponsors, the people, they don't care the way they win."

He says the message from coaches is not win, but rather "don't lose."



In this Wednesday, April 2, 2014 photo, Edson Arantes do Nascimento, better known as Pele, is interviewed at The Associated Press in New York. The retired Brazilian soccer star played on three winning World Cup teams in 1958, 1962, and 1970. In a little more than two months, the World Cup will be played in Brazil for the first time since 1950.

Associated Press

"They don't care about the beautiful game. They don't care about the elegance of football. In my time, we used to think and give a little show."

As the World Cup returns to

the land of "jogo bonito" (the beautiful game), Pele has a new book, "Pele: Why Soccer Matters."

He doesn't expect Brazil to have an easy path to a record sixth World Cup title

— two more than any other nation.

"Germany has a very good team, young team, and then Spain. Spain is a team who plays together eight years, 10 years — same team. Very nice organized team," he said on Wednesday. "This will be difficult. But we must respect Italy. We must respect Uruguay, because Uruguay is there. Argentina is there."

Pele was a part of Brazil's first three World Cup champions, in 1958, 1962 and 1970, and he scored 77 goals in 92 games. He starred for Santos from 1956-74 and kick-started football in the United States with New York Cosmos from 1975-77. He still keeps an apartment in Manhattan.

When he retired, he was considered to have no equal. Then Diego Maradona led Argentina to the

1986 World Cup with amazing darting runs, and to the 1990 final. And in this era, Barcelona's Lionel Messi and Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo are scoring at pretty much a goal-a-game rate for their clubs, although they haven't won the ultimate prize with the national teams.

"To compare Pele with Messi, with Maradona, is difficult because we have different styles," Pele said.

If Pele were in charge of a club, who would be the first player he'd try to sign?

"I'm going to say Neymar because he belongs to us. He comes for free," said Pele, referring to the young Brazilian forward Santos sold to Barcelona last summer. "But at the moment," Pele went on, "as I am a forward, as I score a lot of goals, I will decide: Cristiano Ronaldo." □



Venus Williams reacts during her match against Eugenie Bouchard, of Canada, during the Family Circle Cup tennis tournament in Charleston, S.C., Thursday, April 3, 2014.

Associated Press

Venus Williams ousted at Family Circle Cup

PETE IACOBELLI

AP Sports Writer

CHARLESTON, South Carolina (AP) — Venus Williams couldn't dig herself out of a hole this time and lost to Eugenie Bouchard of Canada 7-6 (6), 2-6, 6-4 at the Family Circle Cup on Thursday.

Williams fought back in each of her first two matches to advance. She seemed to follow the same game-plan in this one, rallying from a set down to win the second set and lead 2-1 in the third.

That's when Bouchard took over, breaking Williams' serve twice in the third set, including the final game.

"She played a lot more consistently than I did," Williams said.

Bouchard finished things off by reaching Williams' drop shot and pushing it into the open court for her first victory over the seven-time Grand Slam champion.

"I've shown to myself how mentally strong I can be," said Bouchard, seeded

sixth.

"Today was really a mental battle. It was a bit ugly at times and tough on the court, but I fought through it."

Williams was the 2004 Family Circle champion. She reached the semifinals here last year where she lost to sister Serena, the eventual champion.

Bouchard will next face second-seed Jelena Jankovic, the 2007 Family Circle champion who at No. 8 in world is the highest-ranked player remaining in the tournament. Jankovic defeated Croatia's Ajla Tomljanovic 7-5, 6-1.

Jankovic has reached the Family Circle quarterfinals in six of the past seven seasons. She's been beaten by a Williams sister each of the last two years, falling to Venus in 2012 and to Serena in last year's championship finals.

Jankovic struggled early as the 20-year-old Tomljanovic fought off a set point to tie the opening set at 5-all. Jankovic then

won eight of the next nine games to move forward.

"I missed that overhead on my set point, which was kind of frustrating, and we leveled it at 5 5," Jankovic said.

"But I was able to stay calm and regroup and finish that set. So that was very important."

Others advancing to the round of eight included third-seed Sara Errani, who outlasted Peng Shuai of China, 7-6 (6), 7-6 (5); Andrea Petkovic, who topped fourth-seeded Sabine Lisicki 6-1, 6-0 in an all-German match; Jana Cepelova of Slovakia, who defeated Elena Vesnina of Russia 7-6 (4), 3-6, 6-3; and Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia, who beat Teliana Pereira of Brazil 6-2, 6-3.

Errani rallied in each of her sets to eliminate Peng, the world's top-ranked doubles player.

For Cepelova, it was her second big victory of this event after knocking off world No. 1 Serena Williams in a stunner on Tuesday. □

NBA Capsules

Wizards top Celtics 118-92
to clinch playoff berth

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Washington Wizards are in the playoffs for the first time since 2008, clinching an Eastern Conference berth Wednesday night with a 118-92 win over the Boston Celtics.

Marcin Gortat scored 22 points to lead the Wizards, who gathered for a celebratory huddle at midcourt after the final whistle. John Wall, the 2010 No. 1 overall draft pick playing the first meaningful late-season games of his career, added 13 points and 10 assists. The Wizards' playoff position had been relatively secure for several weeks in the weakened East, but seeing the magic number reach zero was a milestone worth noting for a franchise whose win totals since their last postseason appearance have been 19, 26, 23, 20 and 29 — never finishing better than 24 games below .500.

Jared Sullinger had 25 points, and Rajon Rondo had 13 to lead the Celtics. SPURS 111, WARRIORS 90

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Tony Parker had 18 points and eight assists, while Tim Duncan had 15 points and eight rebounds as San Antonio extended its franchise-record winning streak to 19 games.

San Antonio (59-16) extended its league-leading record to four games over the Thunder City (54-19) ahead of their matchup Thursday night in Oklahoma City.

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich was able to rest his core players with his team leading by as many as 26 points and never trailing after the opening three minutes.

Marreese Speights scored 22 points and fellow reserve Jordan Crawford added 16 points for Golden State. Klay Thompson had 15 points and Stephen Curry 11 for the Warriors, who were playing on the second night of back-to-back games.

BULLS 105, HAWKS 92

ATLANTA (AP) — D.J. Augustin scored 23 points as

Chicago bumped slumping Atlanta out of the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference with two weeks left in the season. Chicago took control with a 16-3 run in the second quarter and led the rest of the way, fending off the last of Atlanta's runs when Jimmy Butler swished a 3-pointer with just over a minute remaining.

The Hawks lost for the 21st time in 28 games, this one dropping them slightly behind New York for the eighth playoff seed. The Knicks (33-43) routed Brooklyn 110-81 to climb percentage points ahead of Atlanta (32-42). Cleveland is also in the mix after beating Orlando.

Paul Millsap led the Hawks

with 22 points.

KNICKS 110, NETS 81

NEW YORK (AP) — J.R. Smith had 24 points, eight rebounds and six assists and Carmelo Anthony added 23 points and 10 rebounds as New York beat city rival Brooklyn to extend a late-season playoff push. Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 17 points a game after spraining his right ankle to help the Knicks win for the 12th time in 15 games, dominating a team that had the best record in the Eastern Conference since the new year. New York won its third straight and moved percentage points ahead of Atlanta for the eighth and final playoff spot in the East when the Hawks lost to the Bulls. □



Washington Wizards forward Martell Webster (9) loses control of the ball as Boston Celtics guard Phil Pressey, left, defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, April 2, 2014, in Washington. Associated Press

NBA ref Bavetta's ironman streak hits 2,633 games

BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — NBA referee Dick Bavetta worked his 2,633rd consecutive game assignment Wednesday, an ironman streak even longer than the one baseball Hall of Famer Cal Ripken Jr. compiled.

Bavetta worked the game between the Knicks and Nets at Madison Square Garden, where he began his career in 1975, extending a streak during which he has never missed an assignment. He chalked up his streak to good health, dedication and a fear of inconveniencing someone else if he had to take a day off. "I tell you I don't think about it, in a sense that I guess it's a work ethic, and it's always been my way of thinking — that you get a fair day's wage for a fair day's work," Bavetta said before the game.

The 74-year-old Bavetta has worked 270 playoff games in 29 seasons, including 27 NBA Finals games, three All-Star games and the 1992 Olympics. He was honored before the game, joined on the court by NBA president of operations Rod Thorn and fellow official Tony Brothers. There have been close calls through



Referee Dick Bavetta (27) watches a free throw attempt during the second half of an NBA basketball game between the New York Knicks and the Brooklyn Nets Wednesday, April 2, 2014, in New York. Associated Press

the years, usually when bad weather caused flights to be canceled or airports to be closed. But he always found a way, renting a car to drive from Toronto to Cleveland, or Chicago to Detroit, so he and his partner official could get where they had to be.

"I've always felt that (if) I miss a game, I'm imposing upon someone that's home with his family, that already has made plans for the weekend or something," Bavetta said. "So by me not being able to make a game, they have to call someone else up and as

far I am concerned, if I am healthy enough and able to get to where I am getting, that is my job."

NBA referees are contracted to work 82 games a season, same as the teams. He figures he does above 12 to 15 games a month, making his own travel arrangements and then rearranging them whenever circumstances intervene, such as the bad weather that hammered the East and Midwest this winter.

"The NBRA is in awe of what Dick has accomplished," said Lee Seham, general counsel for the National

Basketball Referees Association. "During his streak, he has worked tirelessly on the court and made sacrifices off the court to never miss an NBA game assignment. And what the public should keep in mind is that every referee works the entirety of every game he officiates. We are all humbled by what Dick has done and he is an inspiration to all future referees."

Baseballer Ripken played in 2,632 consecutive games with Baltimore, when he shattered Lou Gehrig's record of 2,130. Bavetta isn't sure how far his streak will go. He hasn't decided when he will retire, saying he usually discusses his plans after the season with his wife and two daughters. He got to work in his home city Wednesday, but most of his games are on the road. "It is something that becomes a part of your life," Bavetta said. "You have to be an independent individual and most importantly you have to have a family that is supportive of you, a wife that understands that you are going to miss a birthday here or there and daughters that understand that a prom may be missed or something like that." □

NASCAR puts pressure of preserving tires on teams

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) --

NASCAR will not regulate tire pressures at Texas Motor Speedway, and if drivers have tire failures during Sunday's race officials believe they won't be able to blame Goodyear.

Hoping to give more control over setups and strategy to race teams, NASCAR is refusing to get involved in monitoring whether teams choose to follow recommendations set each week by Goodyear.

There were multiple tire issues at California two weeks ago, and many drivers tried to blame the product Goodyear brought to the track. NASCAR insisted the issues were self-inflicted and a product of teams going far beyond the air pressure limits recommended by the manufacturer.

With a handful of drivers predicting similar problems this weekend at Texas, NASCAR vice president of competition Robin Pemberton said each team controls its own fate.

"We want to be open enough to give the teams opportunity to adjust and have different setups out there and be more aggressive or less aggressive whenever they sit fit," Pemberton said Thursday. "We want the teams to be able to push the limit, and that's what we expect out of them. If a guy has a tire issue that is self-inflicted

and gets out of the car and blames Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., that's a bad deal. That basically is what some of them tried to do at California."

Goodyear each week presents teams minimum pounds per square inch pressure recommendations based on both testing and data from previous

to Texas, another fast race track, and there's concern that they will overuse the tires. But Goodyear is ahead of it and told them what it takes to fail and what it takes to succeed on left side tire pressures and it's up to teams to use them properly."

Goodyear this week presented teams a chart of

durability.

The inside compound is tougher to provide the tire a cushion for the heat and abuse it takes on certain tracks. Goodyear used the multi-zone tire last year at Atlanta and Kansas to fairly positive feedback from drivers. Texas was a good fit because the track abuses tires and produces high

fire sales Greg Stucker said the lab verifies tire performance and validates pressure recommendations.

"Once we generate this data, confirming our recommendation and at which air pressures the tires need to be run, we share that information with the teams," Stucker said. "Teams have asked for some flexibility with how they set up their cars. This information is just another tool in their toolbox."

Four-time series champion Jeff Gordon questioned Goodyear's decision not to physically test the tires at Texas.

"I think we will see issues there. We saw issues there last year," Gordon said. "I think as a team we are already looking at things that we were doing last year that we can look at trying to improve as far as abusiveness on the tires for Texas. From what I understand, they didn't test in California, and I think that that was obviously a mistake because I think some of those things may have shown up in that test. Did they test in Texas? And if they didn't, then I hope they have a backup plan because I do think that we are going to have some issues there."

Pemberton said it is up to the teams to walk the fine line of pushing the limits Goodyear gives them in an effort to rise in what's shaping up to be a very competitive season. □



Jeff Gordon make a pit stop during a NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at Martinsville Speedway in Martinsville, Va., Sunday, March 30, 2014. Associated Press

tires. NASCAR has maintained the majority of failures at California occurred when teams decided to go below the recommended pressure.

"I think there are some guys that went too far at California and it cost them opportunities, and there are guys that were more calculated and didn't go overboard and capitalized," Pemberton said. "So here we are coming

recommended inflation pressures and times before a possible failure based on testing data. The manufacturer will use for the first time this season the multi-zone tread tire, which combines two distinct rubber compounds on the same right-side tire. The compound used on the outside 10 inches of the tread is designed for traction, and the compound on the inside two inches is designed for

speeds and loads - which both should be up this year with the current configuration of the cars.

The left side tires being used at Texas are the same as those used at the track the last two years. The right sides are the new multi-zone tires and were not track tested. Goodyear instead lab-tested the tires, attempting to replicate actual race conditions.

Goodyear director of race

Houston Open

Continued from Page 17

Opening on the back nine at the former Redstone Golf Club, which was renamed the Gold Club of Houston following an ownership change, Mickelson was bogey free despite needing 31 putts.

His playing partners, Bradley and Webb Simpson, also were bogey free on the overcast and occasionally misty day.

"The greens are absolutely perfect," Haas said. "... I



Charles Howell III takes a shot on the eighth hole during the first round of the Houston Open golf tournament, Thursday, April 3, 2014, in Humble, Texas. Associated Press

think the scores are reflective on that. They were a little slower, but part of that, too, is the weather. It

was like a little dewy mist out there all day, which played a part in the speed of the greens." Mickelson

made the turn at 2 under following a 16-foot birdie putt on the par-4 18th, and he birdied both of the par 5s on his back nine to put himself squarely in contention. Mickelson won the Houston Open in 2011, and the course's Masters-like setup — including slick greens and tight rough — is a key reason he's returned every year since.

"One of the things I really worked on hard today was staying focused on each shot," Mickelson said. "... I needed to play here this week and really challenge myself in that regard to give myself the best chance for next week."

Kuchar, who finished tied for fourth at last week's Texas Open, had three straight birdies in the middle of his round on Thursday — highlighted by a 47-foot birdie putt on the 445-yard par-4 second hole.

McIlroy, one of five of the top 10 players in the world in the field, was as low as 3 under before a pair of bogeys on the back nine. The Northern Ireland golfer struggled with 31 putts.

Hoffman needed just 27 putts in earning a share of the lead, reaching the par-5 eighth hole in two shots and two-putting to reach 7 under as one of the final afternoon groups. □

NL Capsules

Braves top Brewers 1-0 after no-hit bids

The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Atlanta pitcher Aaron Harang and the Brewers' Matt Garza had no-hit bids until Chris Johnson homered with two outs in the seventh inning to give the Braves a 1-0 win.

Harang (1-0) didn't allow a hit until Logan Schafer grounded a single leading off the bottom of the seventh.

in Pittsburgh history by time. Sanchez's hit came off Carlos Villanueva (0-2), ending the game just short of 1 a.m. and 6 minutes longer the Pirates 8-7, 18-inning victory over Houston on May 27, 2006, that took 5:49.

Jordy Mercer opened the 16th with a bunt single but was forced out at second on Jose Tabata's sacrifice attempt. Starling Marte fol-

Bartolo Colon (0-1) was touched up for nine hits over six innings in his Mets debut.

Desmond and Gonzalez (1-0) both homered in the fifth against Colon.

ROCKIES 6, MARLINS 5
MIAMI (AP) — Jordan Pacheco had three hits and Jordan Lyles won in his Colorado debut as the Rockies held on for a victory over the Marlins for their first win of the season.

Charlie Blackmon and Michael Cuddyer each had two hits and an RBI for Colorado, which lost the first two games of the season-opening series.

Giancarlo Stanton hit a two-run homer and drove in three runs, all after Miami fell behind 6-1.

Lyles (1-0) was acquired in an offseason trade the sent Dexter Fowler to the Houston Astros. Lyles allowed four runs and five hits in five innings while striking out five and walking one.

REDS 1, CARDINALS 0
CINCINNATI (AP) — Chris Heisey's single in the bottom of the ninth inning ended Cincinnati's record scoreless streak to open a season and sent the Reds to a victory over the Cardinals following a long rain delay.

Ryan Ludwick and Todd Frazier opened the ninth with singles off Carlos Martinez (0-1). After a sacrifice, Brayan Pena was walked to load the bases and the pinch-hitting Heisey singled up the middle.

The Reds were the last team in the majors to score a run this season. Heisey's hit broke an 0 for 11 slump with runners in scoring position.

J.J. Hoover (1-0) pitched out of a threat in the ninth, getting Matt Adams on a called third strike with two runners aboard.

DODGERS 5, PADRES 1
SAN DIEGO (AP) — Hanley Ramirez hit a two-run double in the first inning and Dan Haren pitched six strong innings to lead Los Angeles.

The Dodgers took two of three from the Padres and now play their home open-

er Friday afternoon against San Francisco. The Dodgers have already played the regular-season opener against Arizona in Sydney and played in the North American opener against the Padres Sunday night. Haren retired the first nine batters before Everth Cabrera singled to center leading off the fourth and eventually scored on Yonder Alonso's one-out single

to right.

Haren (1-0) allowed four hits, struck out seven and walked none.

The Dodgers jumped on Tyson Ross (0-1) for three runs in the first inning.

GIANTS 2, DIAMONDBACKS 0

PHOENIX (AP) — Tim Hudson allowed three hits while working into the eighth inning in his first start for the Giants. □



Atlanta Braves starting pitcher Aaron Harang throws to the Milwaukee Brewers during the first inning of a baseball game Wednesday, April 2, 2014, in Milwaukee. Associated Press

Making his Braves' debut, Harang gave up two hits in 6 2-3 innings, struck out three and walked one.

Relievers Luis Avilan, David Carpenter and Craig Kimbrel were hitless, with Kimbrel getting three outs for his second save.

Garza (0-1) made his Milwaukee debut after signing a \$50 million, four-year contract as a free agent. He allowed one run and two hits in eight innings, struck out seven and walked none.

PIRATES 4, CUBS 3, 16 INNINGS

PITTSBURGH (AP) — In a game that took 5 hours, 55 minutes, pinch-hitter Tony Sanchez singled in the winning run in the bottom of the 16th inning to give the Pirates a victory over the Cubs — the longest game

lowed with a singled to put runners on corners before Sanchez, the rookie catcher and last position player left on the Pirates' bench, grounded into left field for the walkoff hit.

NATIONALS 5, METS 1
NEW YORK (AP) — Gio Gonzalez homered in his first start for the second straight season and pitched three-hit ball to lead the Nationals over the Mets.

Ian Desmond also went deep and Jayson Werth had four hits for the Nationals, who followed up their 10-inning comeback on opening day with a more routine victory against one of Gonzalez's favorite foes. The left-hander struck out six and walked one in six comfortable innings, improving to 6-0 in his last seven starts against New York.

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Nyquist scores to help Red Wings beat Bruins 3-2

The Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Gustav Nyquist broke a deadlock with 7:12 left in the third period, and the Detroit Red Wings held on to beat the Boston Bruins 3-2 on Wednesday night. NHL Capsules Nyquist scored 1:42 after teammate Tomas Jurco equalized. Jimmy Howard finished with 33 saves to seal the win.

The NHL-leading and Atlantic Division-champion Bruins had won a franchise-record nine straight on the road and had earned at least a point in their previous 16 games. Boston led the Red Wings twice, but couldn't put them away. Detroit's Tomas Tatar scored early in the second period to tie it 1-1.

Nyquist has scored in three straight games and has a point in 10 consecutive. Since Jan. 20, he has netted an NHL-best 23 goals. Johnny Boychuk's slap shot put the Bruins up 1-0 late in the first period, and Carl Soderberg gave the Bruins a 2-1 lead early in the third. Tuukka Rask made 17 saves.

KINGS 4, COYOTES 0

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Drew



Ottawa Senators' Mark Stone reaches for an airborne puck as New York Islanders' Matt Donovan avoids a hit during the second period of an NHL hockey game in Ottawa, Ontario, on Wednesday, April 2, 2014.

Associated Press

Doughty and Anze Kopitar scored power-play goals and Jonathan Quick made 17 saves in his sixth shutout of the season as Los Angeles clinched a playoff spot with a victory over Phoenix. Kopitar, Jeff Carter and

rookie Tanner Pearson each had a goal and an assist for the surging Kings, who have all but locked up third place in the Pacific Division and a first-round postseason matchup with California rivals San Jose or

Anaheim. Quick's shutout was the 31st of his career, leaving him one shy of tying Rogie Vachon's franchise record. Quick's six shutouts are second-most in the NHL behind Boston's Tuukka

Rask.

Thomas Greiss stopped 28 shots for the Coyotes, whose playoff hopes have been hurt by three straight losses.

The Coyotes hadn't been shut out since a 2-0 loss to Columbus on Jan. 2.

ISLANDERS 2, SENATORS 1

OTTAWA, Ontario (AP) — Josh Bailey had a goal and an assist for the second straight night, helping the New York Islanders earn back-to-back victories with a win over Ottawa.

Bailey, playing in his 400th NHL game, scored a power-play goal in the first period, and assisted on Casey Cizikas' winning goal midway through the third. Ryan Strome had two assists, and rookie Anders Nilsson followed up Evgeni Nabokov's home victory against Florida on Tuesday by making 35 saves. The Islanders have won three in a row and five of six.

Milan Michalek's power-play tally 6:41 into the third period was the lone goal for the Senators, who had won three straight. Ottawa had earned at least one point in five straight games.

DUCKS 3, OILERS 2

ANAHEIM, California (AP) — Corey Perry scored twice in the third period, and Francois Beauchemin added the winning goal with 1:21 left as Anaheim rallied to beat Edmonton. Beauchemin fired a slap shot past goalie Viktor Fasth to give the Ducks their 50th win of the season (50-18-8). Perry and Ryan Getzlaf assisted on the deciding goal.

With the Ducks trailing 2-0, Perry scored his 40th goal just 37 seconds after Jordan Eberle doubled Edmonton's lead at 2:51. Perry then tied it with 8:35 left. It is the second time Perry has reached 40 goals in a season.

Rookie goalie Frederik Anderson (19-5) stopped 30 shots for the Ducks, 5-0-1 in their last six games.

Philip Larsen scored his third of the season in the first period for Edmonton. Anaheim improved to 27-7-4 at home. □



Boston Red Sox's Mike Napoli (12) follows through on his single that drove in two runs during the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles, Wednesday, April 2, 2014, in Baltimore. The Red Sox won 6-2.

Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — Mike Napoli homered and drove in four runs and John Lackey allowed three hits in six innings as the Boston Red Sox spoiled the Baltimore debut of Ubaldo Jimenez

by beating the Orioles 6-2 Wednesday night. David Ortiz hit a two-run homer off Jimenez (0-1) and Dustin Pedroia had four hits for the defending World Series champion

Napoli's 4 RBIs lead Red Sox over Orioles 6-2

Red Sox, now 1-1 after losing to Baltimore on opening day. AL Capsules Nelson Cruz homered for the second time in two games for the Orioles, who mustered only six hits off Lackey and three relievers. Jimenez allowed four runs, five hits and three walks in six innings. He struck out six. Lackey (1-0) gave up two runs, walked one and struck out six. The right-hander is 14-5 with a 3.34 ERA in 24 career starts against Baltimore.

MARINERS 8, ANGELS 2

ANAHEIM, California (AP) — James Paxton pitched seven scoreless innings of two-hit ball and Robinson Cano drove in his first run for Seattle, which completed a three-game sweep in the team's first series under new manager Lloyd Mc-

Clendon. Mike Zunino, Justin Smoak and Corey Hart all homered for Seattle. Paxton (1-0) threw 99 pitches in his fifth big league start and struck out nine, including Josh Hamilton all three times he faced him. Hector Santiago (0-1) was charged with four runs, four hits and three walks in five-plus innings.

BLUE JAYS 3, RAYS 0

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP) — Mark Buehrle allowed four hits over 8 2-3 innings, Jose Bautista homered twice in Toronto's win over Tampa Bay.

Buehrle (1-0) struck out 11 and walked one. Sergio Santos entered after Ben Zobrist had a two-out single off Buehrle in the ninth and walked Evan Longoria. □

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FireChat ignites new way to communicate on phones

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A

new mobile messaging application called FireChat is empowering nearby smartphone users to stay in touch even when there's no cellular service or Internet connection.

In just two weeks since its release on the iPhone, FireChat already has provided a flicker of hope for people pining for more effective, secure and affordable ways to communicate. That's because the free messaging app harnesses a technology called wireless mesh networking, which might someday allow a myriad of devices to connect like links in a chain.

The technique might someday be used to tie together thousands of devices with built-in radios and make it possible to be online without having to pay for the access. It could also enable online communications in remote areas or disaster zones without Wi-Fi or cellular signals. Furthermore, the conversations in these so-called "off-the-grid" networks can't be easily hacked into by spies and mischief makers or shut down by governments trying to stifle free speech. "We trying to create networks built by the people for the people," said Micha Benoliel, CEO of Open Garden, maker of the FireChat app.

Open Garden, a San Francisco startup with just 10 employees, is taking another step toward its ambitious goal with Thursday's release of a FireChat app for Android phones.

FireChat could be an even hotter commodity on Android given the demographic differences between that platform's



This Oct. 24, 2013 file photo shows a youth checking his smartphone in Glenview, Ill. Local police may be tracking your cell phone. But they're regularly censoring information about how the technology's used or how much it costs taxpayers.

user base and the typical iPhone owner. The app already has been installed on more than 1 million iOS devices.

Many smartphones running on Google Inc.'s free Android software are cheaper than Apple Inc.'s iPhone. That has made Android phones the top-selling mobile devices in less affluent countries, including in regions where Internet access is inadequate or expensive.

Google is among the big Internet companies intrigued with mesh networking's potential to bring more of the world online.

Sundar Pichai, Google's executive in charge of Android, has touted mesh networks as a way to connect wearable computers, such as the company's Glass eyewear. Mesh networks also could be used to bring a wide variety of everyday appliances online, help-

ing to build an Internet of things instead of just websites.

FireChat's reach so far is limited. When connecting off the grid, iPhone app users have only been able to send text and photos to other FireChat users within a range of 30 to 100 feet (10 to 30 meters).

Later this year, Open Garden plans to upgrade FireChat's iPhone app so off-the-grid users will be able to hopscotch through a daisy chain of devices to extend the reach of a local network. If this works, a FireChat user sitting in the right-field bleachers of a baseball game would be able to text with a friend on the other side of the stadium if enough other iPhone users in the ballpark also are on FireChat.

This extended range will be available immediately on FireChat's Android app because Open Garden re-

leased a mesh networking app for that operating system nearly two years ago. FireChat's iPhone app piggybacks on an often overlooked feature called the Multipier Connectivity Framework that Apple Inc. included in its latest mobile operating system, iOS 7, released last September. Apple says more than 80 percent of people using its mobile devices rely on iOS 7.

For now, Android phones and iPhones with the FireChat app won't be able to engage in off-the-grid conversation. Open Garden, though, believes it will eventually be able to make mesh networking work on phones running on different operating systems.

As the mesh networking software improved, Benoliel realized Open Garden needed to come up with application to demonstrate what the technology

could do. In that practical sense, FireChat is similar to the word processing and spreadsheet programs that Microsoft released decades ago to help broaden the appeal of its Windows operating system for personal computers, said Christophe Daligault, Open Garden's marketing chief.

FireChat's development was driven by the popularity of other mobile messaging apps such as Snapchat and WhatsApp that enabled smartphone users to text and send pictures to their friends and family without having to pay smartphone carriers.

Like texts and photos sent on Snapchat, nothing transmitted through FireChat is saved. All content evaporates once the app is closed. FireChat also allows all its users to remain anonymous, another feature that is becoming popular on a variety of mobile messaging apps, such as Wickr and Rummr.

There still aren't enough people using FireChat to ensure users will find someone nearby to message. To pique people's interest in the app, FireChat offers an "everyone" option that allows users to enter a digital chat room with up to 80 other random users located in the same country. This option requires a Wi-Fi or cellular connection.

Daligault concedes FireChat's chat room isn't as high-minded as mesh networking.

"We are finding a lot of people are using it when they are just looking for something to do for a few minutes," Daligault said. "Some of the discussions there are turning out to be more interesting than anything they can find on Facebook." □

Associated Press

Stocks slip, but hold close to all-time highs

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market held close to its all-time high on Thursday amid optimism that the economy is set to strengthen.

Stocks are on course for their best weekly gain in seven weeks after investors got more encouraging news on the economy. A survey showed that U.S. service firms increased their business more quickly last month as new orders rose. Separate reports earlier in the week had shown manufacturing strengthening, hiring picking up, and sales of cars and trucks rising.

The news came ahead of the government's monthly jobs report, which will be published Friday. Investors expect to see a strong pickup in hiring. Economists are forecasting that the U.S. economy added 200,000 jobs in March, according to FactSet. That would be the biggest gain in hiring since November. "If you have a decent economy, a modestly growing economy, that's supportive of corporate earnings and stocks can continue to benefit from that," said John Fox, director of research at Fenimore Asset Management.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 2.13 points, or 0.1 percent, to 1,888.77. The index closed at an all-time high of 1,890 a day earlier after rising for four straight days. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 0.45 point, or less than 0.1 percent, to 16,572.55. The Nasdaq

composite fell 38.72 points, or 0.9 percent, to 4,237.74. Stocks started the day higher after getting a lift from a report on the U.S. service

nahan, chief strategist with TD Ameritrade. "They don't want to be taken by surprise." Barnes & Noble was among

to about 1.2 percent. The index had been up as much as 13 percent by the end of February. Google's stock split took



Trader Thomas Cicciari works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Thursday, April 3, 2014. The stock market held close to its all-time high on Thursday amid optimism that the economy is set to strengthen.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

sector, a broad category of businesses that includes banks, transportation and construction. The Institute for Supply Management's non-manufacturing index rose to 53.1 in March, up from 51.6 in February, indicating that growth in the service sector is picking up. The survey also showed hiring picking up. However, by midmorning stocks started to drift lower. Investors seemed unwilling to place big bets on the market before Friday's key jobs report.

"Going into the employment report, a lot of people aren't anxious to open new positions," said J.J. Ki-

the day's big losers. The stock fell \$2.99, or 13.5 percent, to \$19.12 after Liberty Media said it was cutting its stake in the company. Liberty Media, the investment company controlled by billionaire John Malone, gave Barnes & Noble a lifeline in 2011 when it bought a 17 percent stake in the company. Biotechnology stocks also fell. After surging at the start of the year, biotech stocks have become volatile amid concerns about the cost of the drugs that they're developing. The S&P's index of biotechnology stocks fell 1.6 percent, paring its gains for the year

effect Thursday. The technology company's new Class C non-voting shares rose \$2.74, or 0.5 percent, to \$569.74. Its Class A shares, which retained voting rights, rose \$3.40, or 0.6 percent, to \$571.50. The Class A shares, which have been traded since the company went public nearly a decade ago, now trade under the ticker symbol "GOOGL." The Class C shares inherited the "GOOG" ticker symbol. In government bond trading, bond prices rose. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.79 percent from 2.80 percent on Wednesday. □

Barnes & Noble investor cutting stake

NEW YORK (AP) — Liberty Media Corp. said Thursday that it is cutting its stake in Barnes & Noble Corp., sending the bookseller's shares down sharply.

The investment company controlled by billionaire investor John Malone gave Barnes & Noble, the largest specialty bookstore chain, a life line in 2011 when it bought 12 million Barnes & Noble shares at \$17

apiece. The shares represented a 17 percent stake in the company.

But now Liberty says it is selling the majority of its shares to institutional buyers. It will keep 10 percent of its original investment and lose its two board seats. The change comes as Barnes & Noble has been trying to turn itself around as competition from discount stores and online

retailers toughens, and as consumers shift away from traditional books to digital formats.

The chain has invested heavily in its Nook unit, but that division has not been profitable. In its most recent earnings report, Barnes & Noble reported a third-quarter profit as cost cuts helped offset declining revenue.

Barnes & Noble Chairman Leonard Riggio says the reduced Liberty stake gives his company more flexibility to pursue strategic options. Liberty had initially offered \$1 billion in 2011 to buy Barnes & Noble, but instead made the investment. Shares fell \$2.89, or 13.1 percent, to \$19.22 in midday trading Thursday. The stock had been up 48 percent this year. □

Mozilla CEO Eich resigns after furor over gay rights

SARAH SELL
AP Business Writer

Mozilla co-founder Brendan Eich is stepping down as CEO following protests over his support of a gay marriage ban in California. The Mountain View, California-based nonprofit maker of the Firefox browser infuriated many employees and users last week by promoting Eich.

At issue was Eich's \$1,000 donation in 2008 to the campaign to pass California's Proposition 8, a constitutional amendment that outlawed same-sex marriages.

The ban was overturned when the U.S. Supreme Court last year left in place a lower-court ruling striking down the ballot measure. The contribution had drawn some negative attention in the past but took on more weight when he was named CEO.

Mozilla employees and users criticized the move online.

Dating website OKCupid replaced its usual homepage for users logging in with Firefox, the world's third-most-popular Web browser, with a note suggesting they not use Mozilla's software to access the site.

Mozilla Chairwoman Mitchell Baker apologized for the company's actions in an open letter online Thursday, saying that Eich is stepping down for the company's sake.

"We didn't act like you'd expect Mozilla to act. We didn't move fast enough to engage with people once the controversy started. We're sorry. We must do better," Baker wrote.

She said that Mozilla believes both in equality and freedom of speech and that "figuring out how to stand for both at the same time can be hard."

Mozilla is still discussing what is next for its leadership.

A representative for Mozilla could not be reached immediately for further comment. □

Brookstone files for bankruptcy; plans to sell itself

WILLIAM ALDEN

© 2014 New York Times

Brookstone, the struggling retailer known for its consumer gadgets, massage chairs and other home furnishings, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection Thursday, with plans to sell itself to the owner of the Spencer's retail chain for about \$147 million.

The filing caps a challenging period for Brookstone, which has laid off workers

and closed stores amid a decline in sales. The company, which is privately held, said that it lost \$18 million in the 13 weeks ended Sept. 28, compared with a loss of \$12 million in the period a year earlier.

Brookstone now hopes that a combination with Spencer Spirit Holdings will provide a path toward profitability. Under the agreement with Spencer Spirit, Brookstone will con-

tinue to operate its stores in malls and airports, as well as its catalog, website and wholesale business, under the Brookstone brand.

The agreed purchase price includes \$120 million in cash, \$7.5 million in new notes and about \$18.5 million of assumed liabilities, a spokeswoman for Brookstone said.

Still, it is not certain that the bankruptcy process will go as planned. Blucora, the

owner of the online electronics retailer Monoprice, is considering a rival offer for Brookstone, a person briefed on the matter said Thursday. Blucora's interest was reported earlier by The Wall Street Journal.

Brookstone, based in Merrimack, N.H., said in its bankruptcy filing that it had up to 5,000 creditors. The company estimated that its liabilities were as high as \$500 million. □

Applications for US jobless aid up 16K to 326,000

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of people seeking U.S. unemployment benefits rose 16,000 last week to a seasonally adjusted 326,000. Despite the increase, the number remains close to pre-recession levels and points to stable hiring.

The Labor Department said Thursday that the four-week average of applications, a less volatile measure, inched up 250 to 319,500.

Applications are a proxy for layoffs. They have fallen back to roughly pre-recession levels, an indication that companies are letting go of fewer workers and expect solid economic growth in the months ahead.

The low level of applications for benefits has boosted optimism about how many jobs employers added in March. Weekly claims for unemployment aid have reached a level that is typically consistent with monthly job gains of more than 200,000.

The Labor Department releases its March employment report Friday. Economists project that employers added 191,000 workers last month, according to a survey by FactSet.

That would be an improvement from February, when employers added 175,000 positions. And hiring in February accelerated after winter weather slowed job growth in the previous two months. Snowstorms and freezing temperatures in January and December shut down factories, kept shoppers away from stores and reduced home buying. That cut into growth and hiring. Employers added 129,000 jobs in January and only 84,000 in December.

The unemployment rate rose to 6.7 percent last month. But the tenth of a percentage point increase happened, in part, for a positive reason: More people entered the job market to look for work. □

US trade deficit hits \$42.3 billion in February

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. trade deficit climbed to the highest level in five months in February as demand for American exports fell while imports increased slightly.

The deficit increased to \$42.3 billion, which was 7.7 percent above the January imbalance of \$39.3 billion, the Commerce Department reported Thursday.

U.S. exports slipped 1.1 percent to \$190.4 billion as sales of commercial aircraft, computers and farm goods fell. Imports edged up 0.4 percent to \$232.7 billion, reflecting gains in imports of autos and clothing which offset a drop in crude oil to the lowest level in more than three years.

A higher trade deficit acts as a drag on economic growth because it means U.S. companies are making less overseas than their foreign competitors are earning in U.S. sales.

The wider February deficit prompted some economists to reduce their estimate for overall economic growth for the January-March quarter.

Economists at Macroeconomics said they had trimmed their tracking estimate for overall growth, as measured by the gross domestic product, to a 0.9 percent rate in the first quarter, down by one-half percentage point because of the larger trade deficit.

For the first two months of this year, the deficit is running 4.5 percent below the

same period in 2013 when the deficit dropped to \$474.9 billion, 11.2 percent below the annual deficit in 2012.

Many economists expect the trade deficit will keep narrowing this year as exports, helped by an energy production boom in the United States, grow faster than imports. But analysts expect the improvement will be modest because they are also looking for

ports dropped 10.2 percent to \$11.1 billion while petroleum imports fell 2 percent to \$31 billion. Crude oil imports fell to \$19.5 billion, the lowest level since October 2010.

The deficit with China dropped a sharp 25.1 percent in February to \$20.9 billion. But analysts are still looking for the trade gap with China, which has been the highest with any country, to top the record

United States and more attractive to American consumers and American product more expensive in China.

The Obama administration is lobbying Congress to pass the "fast track" authority it will need to speed approval of two big trade agreements it is currently negotiating, but election-year politics are complicating the White House effort. The administration is nego-



Container ships wait to be off loaded in a thick fog in Oakland, Calif. The Commerce Department reported on the U.S. trade deficit for February Thursday April 3, 2014.

(AP Photo/Ben Margot)

imports to rise as a stronger U.S. economy and higher consumer spending attract more foreign goods. A domestic energy boom has boosted exports and reduced America's dependence on foreign oil. U.S. petroleum exports rose to an all-time high of \$137.2 billion last year, up 11 percent from 2012. Energy imports fell 10.9 percent to \$369.4 billion as domestic production took the place of some imports.

For February, energy ex-

set in 2013.

Those record deficits have increased pressure on the Obama administration and Congress to take a tougher line on what critics see as unfair trade practices by China to gain trade advantages.

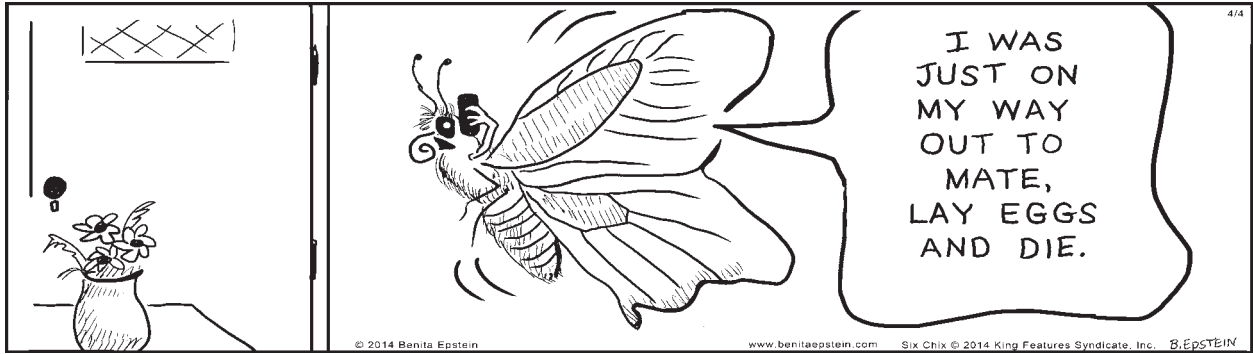
Critics have aimed many of their complaints at China's currency policies. They say Beijing is manipulating its currency to keep it undervalued against the U.S. dollar. That makes Chinese goods cheaper in the

tiating one trade agreement with Japan and 10 other Pacific nations. The other agreement would be a trans-Atlantic deal with the 28-nation European Union. The deals would lower trade barriers and are seen by supporters as a good way to boost U.S. export sales. But critics, including many labor unions, contend that the agreements will open American workers to greater competition and actually end up costing U.S. jobs. □

Mutts



6 Chix



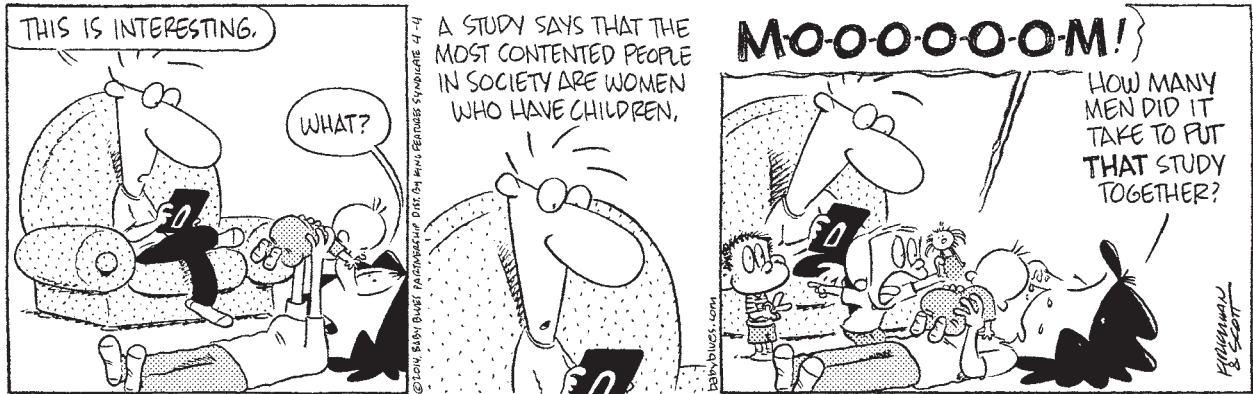
Blondie



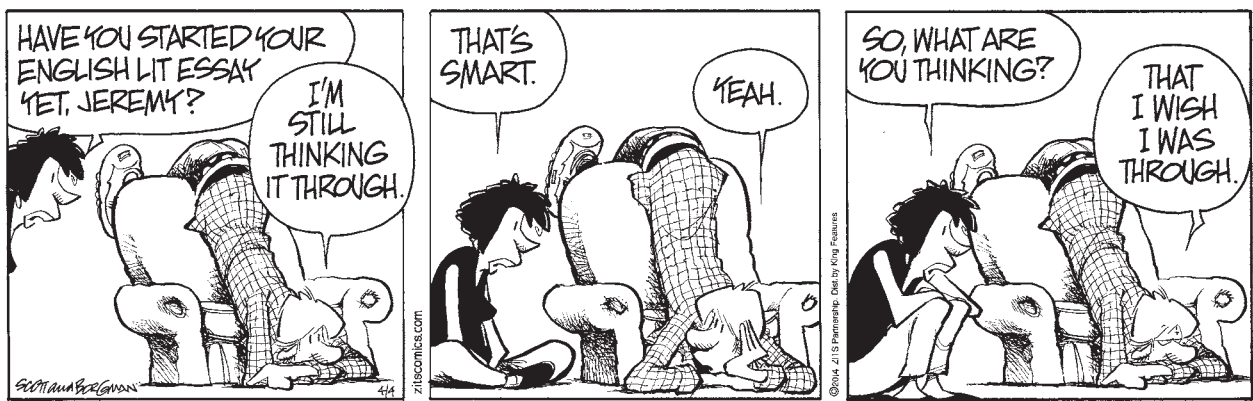
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

				4	5			
	2		6					
	4		9					8
		6		7			4	
	7			2			1	
8			5			3		
2				5		6		
			4		8			
		3	2					

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 4/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	2	7	9	8	6	5	4	3
6	3	4	1	7	5	2	8	9
5	8	9	4	3	2	6	7	1
9	7	2	3	6	4	1	5	8
4	6	3	8	5	1	9	2	7
8	1	5	7	2	9	3	6	4
3	5	8	2	1	7	4	9	6
7	4	6	5	9	3	8	1	2
2	9	1	6	4	8	7	3	5

ACROSS

- 1 Provide with weapons
- 4 Pile up
- 9 Smell
- 13 Fly high
- 15 Monte __; casino resort
- 16 Grape-bearing plant
- 17 Capable
- 18 Whipped __; sundae topper
- 19 On an __ keel; stable
- 20 Detailed; fancy
- 22 Take a nap
- 23 Actor Sinise
- 24 Auction offer
- 26 "Hark the __ Angels Sing"
- 29 Exhaustive
- 34 Without companions
- 35 In poor taste
- 36 Yellow, Red, Black or Dead
- 37 Unfair slant
- 38 Very small
- 39 Hard cooking fat
- 40 " __ Now or Never"; Elvis song
- 41 Carnival attractions
- 42 Curt
- 43 Tied up
- 45 Gathered crops
- 46 Be a copycat
- 47 Sea World performer
- 48 Ricky Ricardo's portrayer
- 51 __ dish; TV signal receiver
- 56 Drug addict
- 57 Express one's views
- 58 Bookish fellow
- 60 Drove too fast
- 61 Cantaloupe or honeydew
- 62 Very excited
- 63 Keyboard error
- 64 Put forth effort
- 65 Mass of people

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13			14		15					16			
17					18					19			
	20			21						22			
			23				24	25					
26	27	28				29	30			31	32	33	
34					35					36			
37					38					39			
40				41						42			
43			44					45					
			46				47						
48	49	50			51	52	53				54	55	
56					57					58		59	
60					61								
63					64						65		

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 4/4/14

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

DOWN

1 As blind __ bat	TAME	KEACH	MILL
2 Cozy after-bath garment	IBEX	EAGLE	AREA
3 Shopping area	MUST	BREED	DONS
4 Agreement	ETHICAL	AGAINST	
5 Wed		NAB	EVEN
6 Zone	EDICT	ONE	DOCKS
7 Thin flat board	LENT	PAC	DENIAL
8 No one in particular	ABC	OCTOPUS	DRY
9 Work too hard	TRUANT	RIB	HEAL
10 Headfirst plunge	EARN	BEE	DIRTY
11 Dollar bills		DELES	SOB
12 Torn in two	SHORTER	RECALLS	
14 Ron and Nancy	CONE	AARON	COOL
21 Bundle of hay	ANEW	STABS	HULA
25 Rage	MESS	TEPEE	IDLY
26 In the __ of; used to doing			
27 Upper crust			
28 Pot __; cut of beef			
29 Cornered			
30 Attila's men			
31 Seize power			
32 Waterbirds			
33 Despised			

- 35 Relinquish
- 38 Boring
- 39 Making airtight
- 41 Pelosi's title: abbr.
- 42 Small duck
- 44 Coif
- 45 Give in
- 47 Hombre's title
- 48 "Ashes to ashes, ____"
- 49 Notice
- 50 Leak out
- 52 High point
- 53 Scrabble piece
- 54 Bears or Cubs
- 55 Consequently
- 59 Small amount

Enron-style cultures still linger

L.M. Sixel

© 2013 Houston Chronicle

When Enron collapsed more than decade ago, many smart people wondered how a high-flying company that was once so profitable could fall that hard and that fast.

It's easy to point to ethical lapses and such accounting tricks as off-the-balance-sheet partnerships and debt disguised as assets to explain the demise of the energy trading company that was once No. 5 on the Fortune 500 list.

But many underlying problems remained hidden for so long because of the reluctance of insiders, and some outsiders, to come forward, two experts on Enron say. It's a lesson that remains critical to managers today.

The culture of fear and intimidation, while tamping down dissenters, is still a way of life at many companies. And the perils are worth revisiting in the wake of subsequent financial disasters such as the subprime mortgage crisis and the ensuing bank failures. This week, Bethany McLean, co-author of "The Smartest Guys in the Room: The Amazing Rise and Scandalous Fall of Enron," talked about some of the lessons at a conference on business ethics sponsored by the University of St. Thomas.

Former Enron executive Sherron Watkins, who brought her accounting concerns to then-chairman Ken Lay, also made a presentation at the conference that brought together the deans of Catholic schools of business across the nation.

One reason the insider dealing at Enron stayed quiet for so long was the reluctance to question the company's underpinnings, lest a doubter be labeled a fool.

For anyone who'd say, "I just don't get it," company officials acted as if they were slow and stupid, McLean said.

"Everyone wanted to be on the list of the analysts who got it," she added.

That attitude started at the

top, McLean said, recalling the way then-CEO Jeff Skilling used his intimidating reputation for sparking brilliance to shut down questions. Skilling initially received a 24-year prison sentence but got more than 10 years shaved off his sentence.

Skilling wasn't the first, and certainly not the last, executive to use that technique of intimidation by bluster.

And it's a big reason that doubters, whether they're employees, investors or board members, are often hesitant to ask questions, said McLean, who recently co-wrote "All the Devils are Here: The Hidden History of the Financial Crisis."

Another problem that cropped up at Enron but can be seen in boardrooms across the nation is a focus on the difference between what is legal and what is ethical, McLean said. Businesses often complain about the complexity of regulations surrounding their industries. However, companies engaging in questionable behavior often hide behind that very complexity.

At Enron, officials viewed accounting complexity not as a problem but as an opportunity, McLean said. In other words: Do the rules allow it?

She used the hypothetical example of Enron accountants who had a dog but needed a duck. The accountants looked at a definition of a duck - yellow feet, white feathers and an orange beak - and got to work painting and outfitting the dog.

Most anyone would see it was an oddly painted dog with an orange beak. But according to the rules, it met all the definitions of a duck.

As the financial world becomes more global and more complex, problems are becoming more difficult to spot. Regulators are slow to pick up on new schemes and companies are finding it increasingly impossible to manage the risks they face.

McLean's favorite oxymoron no longer is "jumbo shrimp" but "risk management." One of the lessons Watkins learned was not to go it alone. □

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Vast ocean found beneath ice of Saturn moon

MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida

(AP) — Scientists have uncovered a vast ocean beneath the icy surface of Saturn's little moon Enceladus.

Italian and American researchers made the discovery using Cassini, a NASA-European spacecraft still exploring Saturn and its rings 17 years after its launch from Cape Canaveral. Their findings were announced Thursday.

This new ocean of liquid water — as big as or even bigger than North America's Lake Superior — is centered at the south pole of Enceladus and could encompass much if not most of the moon. Enceladus is about 310 miles (499 kilometers) across.

The data do not show if the ocean extends to the north pole, said the lead researcher, Luciano Iess of Sapienza University of Rome.

At the very least, it's a regional sea some 25 miles (40 kilometers) deep under miles-thick ice. On Earth, it would stretch from our South Pole up to New Zealand — at the very least.

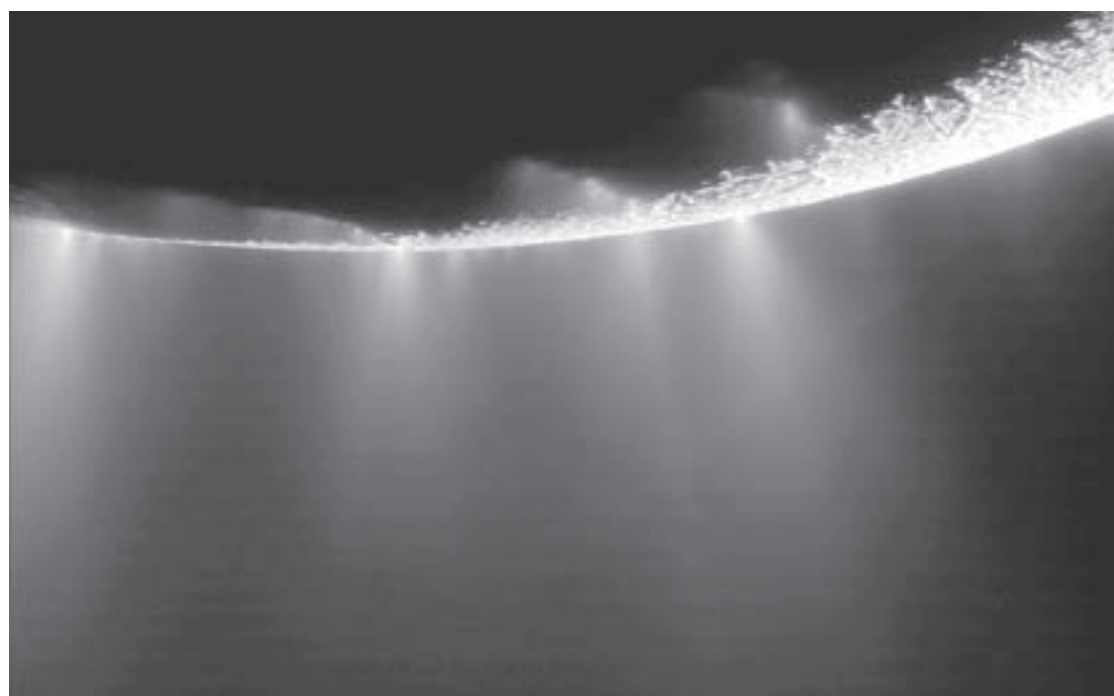
Cassini's rudimentary instruments also cannot determine whether the moon's ocean harbors any form of life. Another mission using more sophisticated instruments is needed to make that search.

This latest discovery makes the interior of Enceladus "a very attractive potential place to look for life," said Cornell University planetary scientist Jonathan Lunine, who took part in the study. Back in 2005, Cassini detected a plume streaming from cracks in the south polar region. Scientists suspected these jets of salty water vapor and ice — containing some light organic molecules like methane — might come from a subsurface ocean. On Thursday, they confirmed its presence. Their findings appear in the journal *Science*.

Cassini provided gravity measurements from three close fly-bys of Enceladus from 2010 to 2012. The Doppler data indicated a dense material beneath the surface of the south pole, most likely liquid water.

The ocean is believed to be sandwiched between miles of surface ice and a rocky core.

"It's extraordinary what Cassini has been able to do for this small moon," California Institute of Technology's David Stevenson, part of the research team, told reporters this week. But "this is not like mapping the surface of the Earth or mapping the surface of the moon, it's nothing like that. It's much cruder, and it's amazing that we've been able to do as much as we



This photo provided by NASA shows water vapor jets, emitted from the southern polar region of Saturn's moon Enceladus. Scientists have uncovered a vast ocean beneath the icy surface of the moon, they announced Thursday, April 3, 2014.

Associated Press

can."

Enceladus is hardly the only moon in the solar system with a subsurface sea.

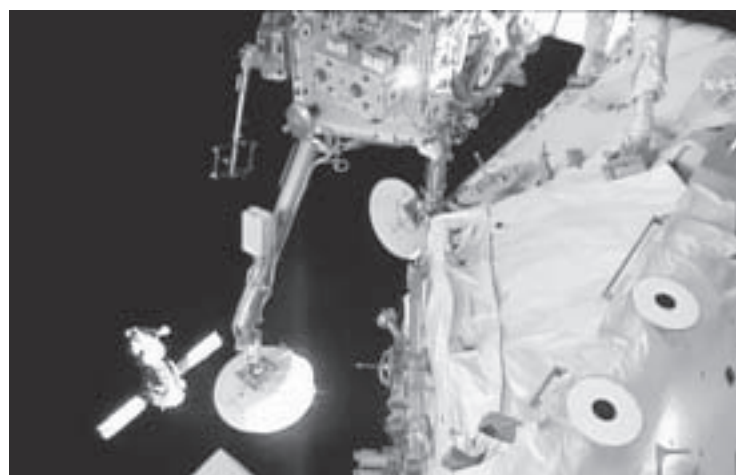
Titan, the largest of Saturn's dozens of moons, is believed to have a global

ocean. Evidence points to oceans inside the giant Jupiter moons of Callisto and Ganymede. And Jupiter's Europa also has a hidden reservoir similar to that of Enceladus, complete with

plumes and a rocky bottom.

Cassini, already exceeding its life expectancy, is to make three more fly-bys of Enceladus before the mission ends in 2017. □

Space station sidesteps space junk again



In this frame grab from video provided by NASA, the Russian Soyuz spacecraft, left, ferrying three crew members, approaches the International Space Station, Thursday, March 27, 2014.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The International Space Station had to dodge space junk again — the second time in less than three weeks.

NASA said the station fired its thrusters Thursday afternoon, moving up about half a mile, to avoid some parts from an old Ariane 5 rocket. The European Space Agency launches Ariane rockets out of South America.

The junk would have come within 1,040 feet of the outpost. NASA said the six man crew was never in danger. NASA spokesman Kelly Humphries said the space agency has had to consider sidestepping space junk dozens of times since the outpost was launched in 1998, sometimes canceling the orbital dodge at the last moment.

The station moved on March 16 to avoid an old Russian weather satellite part. □

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'Parenthood' star Burkholder sheds light on autism

ALICIA RANCILIO

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Max Burkholder strives to be a normal teen while working on the NBC drama "Parenthood."

The 16-year-old actor attends school when he's not filming the show, which airs Thursdays at 10 p.m. EDT, about the ups and downs of a large family living in Berkley, Calif.

Burkholder's character, also named Max, isn't your typical teen. He has Asperger syndrome, a mild form of autism.

Burkholder says he was 10 or 11 years old when he got the part, and he didn't know about Asperger's.

"In the beginning ... I would meet with a doctor who specializes in working with children with Asperger's as well as the director of the next episode and we'd talk about what Max should be doing,

how he'd react in certain situations, things like that," Burkholder said in a recent interview.

"Parenthood" is now in its fifth season. Burkholder says he feels more comfortable with the character and receives guidance less fre-

quently.

"I sort of feel that I've figured out how Max specifically acts rather than how a person with Asperger's would generally act."

Burkholder's character is extremely intelligent. He rarely looks others in the eye or displays emotion, unless it is frustration.

He is blunt and matter of fact in his speaking, but his observations can be funny — even cringe-worthy, because they are so honest and unrestrained.

Monica Potter, who plays his mother, says she marvels at working with Burkholder.

"Working with Max is one of the greatest things about coming to work. Wicked smart, extremely talented and beyond hilarious," she says.

"Everyone should be so lucky to get to work with genius like him."

Matt Asner, executive director of Autism Speaks in Southern California, says Burkholder's work on the show is a great message for everyone.

Many people don't know what autism is, Asner says, "and so they're getting this message from him on



This image released by NBC shows Max Burkholder as Max Braverman from the series, "Parenthood," airing Thursdays at 10 p.m. EST on NBC.

Associated Press

a weekly basis and what his family has to deal with (because of) the disorder. It's amazing. Knowledge is power."

As Max Braverman grows, much of his story involves trying to be a normal kid, but with social awkwardness getting in the way.

In a recent episode, he decided a character should be his girlfriend because

they both like the same hockey team.

"It wasn't even romantic with Max," recalled Burkholder. "It was just something like, 'Oh, requirements have been met.' It wasn't even Max wanting (a girlfriend).

He thought it was something that was necessary." Asner says that portrayal is spot on.

"When you get ... older, you want to be like everyone else. You want to like the same things that everyone likes but the fact is you're not like other people.

It creates frustration in that person and can create some very rough emotional times. ... You're dealing with life in a very different way than most people would call typical." □

Pharrell Williams, Zimmer create 'Spidey' opera

MARCELA ISAZA

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Director Marc Webb and famed composer Hans Zimmer assembled a supergroup of influential recording artists, including the "Happy" chart topper Pharrell Williams, for "The Amazing Spider-Man 2."

The hope was that everyone working together would spark creativity, but Zimmer had no idea how far that creativity would go until Williams took a walk around the block.

"We wrote an opera. So, who would've thunk it?" Zimmer said. "It just came out of a conversation with Marc that came out of all these ideas and sudden-

ly, you know, there was this great moment where (Pharrell) was so excited because of all these ideas. I could see all of these ideas sort of flying in his head and he said, 'Stop. I just have to walk around the block, literally.' We sat there and he walked around the block and came back with two pages of lyrics. Amazing. It was amazing but it was that sort of environment."

Other members of Spidey's supergroup included Johnny Marr, founding member of The Smiths, and Michael Einziger, founder and guitarist for Incubus. The soundtrack also includes a collaboration between Alicia Keys and Kendrick Lamar.

Williams said things came together despite the presence of these high-end musicians from all parts of the music world.

"Yeah, it was very harmonious," he said in an interview last week. "The atmosphere, it wasn't a clash of the egos. It was more like everything just fit into place in a really wonderful way and of course Hans being at the helm of what we would call leadership. He allowed for everyone to have a voice and for everyone to have their creative space and for that space to count."

That creativity spilled over into the film, which opens May 2, as Webber became so inspired by the work he



In this Tuesday, March 25, 2014 photo, Pharrell, left, and Hans Zimmer pose at The Standard Hotel during press day for their collaboration on the soundtrack for "The Amazing Spider-Man 2," in Los Angeles. The film releases May 2, 2014.

Associated Press

made a change in the movie.

"I suppose I don't think it's a secret anymore but suddenly the Sinister Six were sort of introduced into the movie because we had a theme for them and it became irresistible to go and shoot these scenes," Zim-

mer said.

While Zimmer and Williams come from different worlds — evidenced at the interview by their opposite fashion styles with Zimmer in a dark brown metallic suit and Williams in one of his famous black oversized hats. □

Reaching Latinos: U.S. Media seeks winning formula

LAURA WIDES-MUNOZ

AP Hispanic Affairs Writer

MIAMI (AP) — Reaching the United States' 55 million Latinos has become gospel for mainstream media giants, but capturing this fast-growing, mostly U.S.-born audience is proving tricky to networks and websites. For every success story there is a flop.

Take CNN's latest attempt at a Spanish-language broadcast targeting U.S. Latinos. The broadcaster is no newcomer to the Spanish-speaking world, for decades reaching Latin America with CNN en Español. But the company said it axed its CNN Latino domestic Spanish-language service after one year because it failed "to fulfill our business expectations."

NBC's attempt at a website called NBC Latino folded in January after 16 months, despite producing thousands of original stories. Even the much-heralded Fusion — a joint venture of Univision and ABC — is still experiencing growing pains, shedding several programs in its first year and restructuring its nightly news show from five days a week to one.

One challenge: Many in the audience today are second- and third-generation Latinos, and often they eschew a Latino-only box, even as they crave more stories that include them. "I don't want to be forced all this Latin stuff," explained 36-year-old Alain



In this Monday, Oct. 14, 2013 file photo, workers are shown in the Fusion network's warehouse-turned-news hub known as Newport, in Doral, Fla.

Associated Press

Amejeira, an air conditioning technician in South Florida whose parents came from Cuba. "I'm Alain. I'm not Alain the Cuban guy who needs only Cuban news."

MSNBC Executive Producer Chris Pena saw the challenges firsthand in guiding NBC Latino. From the start, he said, there was debate whether to create a stand-alone site for English-speaking Latinos.

"The idea was to provide Latinos with other types of coverage, aspirational stories that reflected the ideals of immigrants," Pena said, adding some of the original stories produced there ended up on the main

NBC news website. "If NBC Latino had not been out there reporting on some of those stories, they probably would not have been reported."

NBC has since rolled its Latino content into a page within its broader revamped news site, albeit with fewer reporters but wider distribution.

Survivors have emerged and show staying power, Fusion among them. Among Latino-focused websites and TV networks born in recent years, several are still standing: HuffPost Latino Voices; VOXXI's independent news site for Latinos, Fox News Latino, focusing on the domes-

tic English-speaking Latino market; and Mundo Fox with world news in Spanish. Then there's the long-running NPR program Latino USA, in its 20th year. It expanded to an hour-long magazine last year after host Maria Hinojosa decided to produce the show independently.

In recent months, the popular website BuzzFeed also has noticeably upped the caliber and number of its Hispanic-related stories. "There's more to come. We're still trying to figure it out," BuzzFeed's Adrian Carrasquilla said.

The Washington, D.C.-based Latinum Network marketing group puts His-

panic buying power at upward of \$1.2 trillion annually, based on U.S. Census and Commerce Department statistics. That complex market is only growing.

This week, more than 1,200 journalists, bloggers, filmmakers and marketers met up in Miami for the fifth annual "Hispanicize" event, focusing on just how to reach this demographic. Five years ago, the conference drew a few hundred people. There, Google announced Wednesday it will soon unveil a new domain, .soy (.I am), targeting bilingual, cultural Latinos.

And next month in Miami Beach, Rupert Murdoch, executive chairman of News Corp. and the founder of Fox News, will address the Association of Hispanic Advertising Agencies on his conglomerate's strategy to reach Hispanics.

But American audiences are more fragmented than ever, meaning when it comes to Latinos, media companies and their advertisers are often pursuing a slice of a market slice.

Millennials — adults in their mid-30s and younger — and even Gen Xers — those between about 35 and 50 — are finding content differently, favoring mobile devices over TVs or desktop computers. Hareth Andrade, a 20-year-old immigration advocate raised in Virginia, said she likes finding focused content in one place but not just for Hispanics. "I'd be interested in maybe more not just about Latinos but about other minority groups," the Bolivian native said.

Embracing that multicultural approach, Fusion pivoted before its October launch from targeting Hispanics to targeting Hispanic millennials and their friends, playing with formats for younger and more mobile audiences.

"This is a generation that doesn't go to TV to get breaking news," CEO Isaac Lee said, noting a recent decision to turn veteran anchor Jorge Ramos' nightly news program into a longer-form magazine. "We have to experiment." □

Anne Tyler's new novel, her 20th, due out in 2015

NEW YORK (AP) — Fifty years after her first book was published, Anne Tyler is set to release her 20th novel.

And yes, it will be set in Baltimore.

Published Alfred A. Knopf announced Thursday that the 72-year-old Tyler's next book, currently untitled, will come out next spring.

The novel, as with most of her works, is set in her hometown of Baltimore. It is a multigenerational tale of the Whitshank family that begins in the 1990s with a mysterious phone call.

Tyler's previous works include "The Accidental Tourist" and "Breathing Lessons," winner of the Pulitzer Prize in 1989. □



This undated image provided by Knopf shows author Anne Tyler. **Associated Press**

Surprise! The Rich Won One



GAIL COLLINS

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Today, we are going to discuss the Supreme Court decision on political donations. Already, we have run into a terrible problem, which is the difficulty in having a fun conversation about campaign finance laws.

Let me try for a second: On Wednesday, Chief Justice John Roberts Jr., who once played Peppermint Patty in a school production of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," told the nation it was unconstitutional to say that a rich person could only give a total of \$123,200 to congressional campaigns each election cycle. This would have been called the majority decision, except that Clarence Thomas, who never talks in court and had that pubic hair controversy back in the day, wrote a little memo of his own.

Roberts was joined by Antonin Scalia, Samuel Alito and Anthony Kennedy. Kennedy is the famous swing vote, and also a person who once, as a young student, traveled around Europe for a summer with a bottle of whiskey his father had given him, which he used only to gargle.

Their bottom line was that the founding fathers intended America to be a country in which every citizen had the inalienable right to donate, say, \$3.6 million every two years.

How do you feel about that, people? On the one hand, this cannot possibly be a helpful step forward. On the other hand, we already live in a country where billionaires can spend endless amounts of cash trying to influence elections with their own private groups. The Koch brothers' group has spent more than \$7 million on ads in North Carolina against Sen. Kay Hagan, and there isn't even a Republican candidate yet. How much farther could we sink?

"They can now do even worse things," predicted Fred Wertheimer, the long-suffering leader of Democracy 21, a nonprofit that lobbies for campaign finance reform. There's a big difference, he claims, between an independent group that has to at least pretend it's not coordinating its message with a political party, and a rich guy simply "going to a leader in Congress and saying: 'I'm going to write

you a check today for \$2.5 million, providing I know what your position is on the following. ...'"

Wertheimer has been working on this issue for a long time. "Let me see if I can add it up; 41 - no! - 43 years," he said. "I started with Common Cause in 1971, and I was assigned to two issues: campaign finance reform and legislation to end the Vietnam War." And, you know, now the Vietnam War is over.

So Fred Wertheimer is not going to give up on this issue. But what about the rest of us? The vast, vast majority of Americans believe there should be some kind of cap on the amount of money candidates can take in and spend. However, they don't generally want to master the details of the independent expenditure-only committees or the aggregate spending cap. It's tough enough being a concerned citizen. You've got to be able to identify your state senator and have an opinion on the level of pre-K funding in the municipal budget. There's a limit.

The downside to the decision is pretty clear, unless you are of the opinion that what this country really needs is more power to the plutocrats. But let's try to be positive for a minute, and look at the pluses:

Potential upside of opening the door to bigger campaign contributions from rich people:

1) Perhaps Roberts was trying to pile up some right-wing cred so that he can swing left on the Obamacare contraception rule. OK, I'm totally making that one up.

2) The federal government will no longer be "eliminating a person's right to choose." This is the spin from Lincoln Brown, a talk radio host who interviewed Shaun McCutcheon, the plaintiff in the suit that the Supreme Court just decided. This would refer to a right to give several million dollars directly to people running for federal office, not a woman's right to control her reproductive system. But maybe there could be a trend.

The interview, by the way, is up on McCutcheon's website, along with the announcement that he is writing a book on the way he made legal history, which will be "ready in a few weeks." For the CEO of an Alabama coal-mining firm, this guy is one fast typist.

3) More talk about oligarchs! Watching events in Russia and Ukraine, you can't help noticing all the stupendously rich oligarchs with their fingers in every political development. It's a useful word, connoting both awesome power and a group you don't really want to have around.

In the former Soviet Union, the money elite generally get their power from the politicians. Here, it seems to be the other way around. But the next time casino zillionaire Sheldon Adelson invites the Republican presidential hopefuls to go to Las Vegas and bow before his throne, feel free say they were just off honoring an oligarch. Apparently, the founding fathers would have wanted it that way. □



We're Not No. 1! We're Not No. 1!



NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF

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We in the United States grow up celebrating ourselves as the world's most powerful nation, the world's richest nation, the world's freest and most blessed nation. Sure, technically Norwegians may be wealthier per capita, and the Japanese may live longer, but the world watches the NBA, melts at Katy Perry, uses iPhones to post on Facebook, trembles at our aircraft carriers, and blames the CIA for everything. We're No. 1!

In some ways we indisputably are, but a major new ranking of livability in 132 countries puts the U.S. in a sobering 16th place. We underperform because our economic and military strengths don't translate into well-being for the average citizen.

In the Social Progress Index, the U.S. excels in access to advanced education but ranks 70th in health, 69th in ecosystem sustainability, 39th in basic education, 34th in access to water and sanitation, and 31st in personal safety. Even in access to cellphones and the Internet, the U.S. ranks a disappointing 23rd, partly because 1 in 5 Americans lacks Internet access.

"It's astonishing that for a country that has Silicon Valley, lack of access to information is a

red flag," notes Michael Green, executive director of the Social Progress Imperative, which oversees the index. The U.S. has done better at investing in drones than in children, and cuts in social services could fray the social fabric further.

This Social Progress Index ranks New Zealand No. 1, followed by Switzerland, Iceland and the Netherlands. All are somewhat poorer than the United States per capita, yet they appear to do a better job of meeting the needs of their people.

The Social Progress Index is a brainchild of Michael E. Porter, the eminent Harvard business professor who earlier helped develop the Global Competitiveness Report. Porter is a Republican whose work, until now, has focused on economic metrics.

"This is kind of a journey for me," Porter told me. He said that he became increasingly aware that social factors support economic growth: tax policy and regulations affect economic prospects, but so do schooling, health and a society's inclusiveness.

So Porter and a team of experts spent two years developing this index, based on a vast amount of data reflecting suicide, property rights, school attendance, attitudes toward immigrants and minorities, opportunity for women, religious freedom, nutrition, electrification and much more. Many who back proposed Republican cuts in Medicaid, food stamps and public services believe that such trims would boost U.S. competitiveness. Looking at this report, it seems that the opposite is true.

Ireland, from which so many people fled in the 19th century to find opportunity in the United States, now ranks 15th. That's a notch ahead of the U.S., and Ireland is also ahead of the U.S. in the category of "opportunity." Canada came in seventh, the best among the nations in the G-7. Germany is 12th, Britain 13th and Japan 14th.

The bottom spot on the ranking

was filled by Chad. Just above it were Central African Republic, Burundi, Guinea, Sudan and Angola.

Porter notes that Arab Spring countries had long-standing problems leading to poor scores in the "opportunity" category. If that's a predictor of trouble, as he thinks it may be, then Russia, China, Saudi Arabia and Iran should be on guard. None do well in the category of opportunity.

In contrast, some countries punch well above their weight. Costa Rica performs better than much richer countries, and so do the Philippines, Estonia and Jamaica. In Africa, Malawi, Ghana and Liberia shine. Bangladesh (No. 99) ranks ahead of wealthier India (No. 102). Likewise, Ukraine (No. 62) outperforms Russia (No. 80).

China does poorly, ranking 90th, behind its poorer neighbor Mongolia (No. 89). China performs well in basic education but lags in areas such as personal rights and access to information.

All this goes to what kind of a nation we want to be, and whether we put too much faith in gross domestic product as a metric.

Overall, the United States' economy outperformed France's between 1975 and 2006. But 99 percent of the French population actually enjoyed more gains in that period than 99 percent of the U.S. population. Exclude the top 1 percent, and the average French citizen did better than the average American. This lack of shared prosperity and opportunity has stunted our social progress. There are no quick fixes, but basic education and health care are obvious places to begin, especially in the first few years of life, when returns are the highest.

The arguments for boosting opportunity or social services usually revolve around social justice and fairness. The Social Progress Index offers a reminder that what's at stake is also the health of our society - and our competitiveness around the globe. □

Old habits at Samsung, LG embarrass them abroad

YOUKYUNG LEE

AP Technology Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —

When Samsung unveiled a new smartphone at the storied Radio City Music Hall, the Broadway-style spectacle was memorable not for technology but for a cast of giggling female characters who fantasized about marrying a doctor, fretted about eating too much cake, and needed a man's help to understand how to work the phone.

The stereotypes were blatant even for an industry where skimpily clad booth babes are a staple of trade shows and high-level female executives are a rarity. A backlash spread online as the event, live-streamed on the Internet and broadcast in Times Square, unfolded.

How could an international company that wants to be seen as an innovator and spends more than \$11 billion a year on advertising and promotions so badly misjudge its audience? Without too much difficulty and often it turns out.

A day before the Galaxy smartphone launch in March last year, the

company was criticized in South Africa for using models in bikini tops to show its newest refrigerators and washing machines.

Some months later it was derided for a video promoting a fast data storage device known as a solid state drive. Two men in the ad immediately recognize the device and understand the benefits while a woman, who says she only uses her computer for simple activities such as looking at pictures, is befuddled.

Marlene Morris Town, a marketing professor at Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business, said the portrayals are "troubling" and imply that men are the sole target of the sales message. If women are the target, the implication is "they are significantly less competent and not able to grasp technology."

Samsung is hardly alone in talking down to half of its potential customers.

Joking that gadgets made by LG Electronics distract attention from models, Facebook user Lee Sang-hoon collected two dozen

images of the company's products promoted by women with ample cleavage. The company's promotion for a new curved TV was a woman showing off her thighs in a reclining pose.

"Among men, we talk about how LG does breast marketing," said Lee, who noted LG seemed to have toned down its promotions this year.

Perhaps because depictions of females as adornments and submissive helpers have long been the norm in South Korean commercials and print ads, audiences have rarely questioned how homegrown technology giants such as Samsung and LG Electronics portrayed women. Even as these companies became global names, ingrained aspects of their corporate cultures hardly changed. Some of Samsung's blunders took place under female leadership. A top marketing executive in its mobile team was a woman and gave the green light to the Radio City Music Hall performance.

Heeding criticism abroad

and at home, Samsung this year tried for the first time to dispense with young women in tight clothes for a TV launch in South Korea. It was a small but somehow bold step as sexualized product launches are a fixture that provide fodder for tabloids and TV and much publicity for the companies.

"In the past, it seemed that a lot of reporters were focusing on something else, not our TVs," said Kim Hyun-seok, head of Samsung's TV business.

But far from winning plaudits, Samsung became the victim of the cult it helped create.

Without models, news photographers and camera crews refused to shoot a new curved screen television at the Samsung launch in February. Instead, they asked female assistants hired to explain technical features to stand next to the TVs.

For some, the phenomenon reflects that leadership in the tech and advertising industries remains predominantly male.

"Decision makers in the ads are nearly all men,"

said Park Jae-hang, who worked at Cheil Worldwide, an ad and marketing unit of Samsung Group, between 1993 and 2009.

Ken Hong, a spokesman for LG, said the content of promotions boils down to what the audience wants. "Using female models for tech product photos is popular with Korean readers so the media request them," he said.

When he distributes pictures to international media, he usually opts for product-only ones and tries to limit the use of models to situations where the size of the product needs to be emphasized.

Even as companies say they are giving consumers what they want, not every Korean agrees. Cho Seon-young, a 29-year-old painter and gadget lover, said she skips articles with photos of women in tight clothes and heavy makeup holding tech gadgets. She'd rather they focused on the devices.

"Those tech devices are high-class and expensive but these women make those goods look cheap," she said.

Minjeong Kim, an assistant professor of Women's Studies at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, said the imagery has real consequences for how women are perceived.

"They are inviting, they are smiling, and they just stand there," she said. "They reinforce the feminine ideals that women should be nice and submissive."

In the last few years, Samsung has increased its marketing and advertising to promote its Galaxy smartphones that have surpassed Nokia and Apple in global sales. But the criticism of its marketing has been a setback in the attempt to reinvent itself as an innovator and a trend setter.

Samsung, which is preparing for the global launch of the Galaxy S5 smartphone on April 11, said it is making "concentrated efforts" to ensure its communications around the world respectfully portray women. □



A model poses with an LG Electronics' 105-inch ultra-HD TV with a curved screen in Seoul, South Korea. Samsung Electronics Co., which is preparing for the global launch of the Galaxy S5 smartphone on April 11, 2014, said it is making "concentrated efforts" to ensure its communications around the world respectfully portray women. Some of its promotions and corporate events in the past year were criticized as sexist and demeaning. The advertising of LG Electronics Inc. has also been under scrutiny in South Korea and abroad for its portrayal of women. (AP Photo/LG Electronics Inc.)